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Daily Report

Soviet Union

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FBIS 50th Anniversary Note

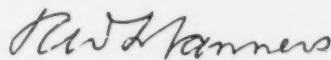
To Our Consumers:

This year the Foreign Broadcast Information Service observes its 50th anniversary.

The service, first called the Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service, was established in 1941 prior to the U.S. entry into World War II. At the time, a number of U.S. Government officials were concerned about the content of foreign radio broadcasts—a relatively new means of conveying information and propaganda across borders. On their advice, President Franklin D. Roosevelt in late February 1941 allotted money from his emergency fund to institute the recording, translating, transcribing, and analyzing of selected foreign broadcasts for the U.S. Government. During World War II the service demonstrated that monitoring was a fast, economical, and reliable way to follow overseas developments.

Today the Foreign Broadcast Information Service provides its consumers throughout the federal government, according to their diverse official interests, with information from a broad range of foreign public media. FBIS information also is available to readers outside of the government, through the National Technical Information Service. Objectivity, accuracy, and timeliness are our production watchwords.

We members of the current staff of FBIS extend our thanks to consumers for their interest in FBIS products. To past staffers we extend our thanks for helping the service reach this anniversary year. At the same time, we pledge our continued commitment to providing a useful information service.



R. W. Manners
Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-91-038

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Protocol Dissolving Warsaw Pact Signed 25 Feb

LD2502164891 Moscow TASS in English
1550 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Budapest February 25 TASS—A protocol to cancel the effect of the military agreements, signed within the framework of the Warsaw Treaty, and to annul its military bodies and structures from March 31, 1991 was unanimously approved and signed here today at the extraordinary meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee at the level of defence and foreign ministers of the member-countries.

The meeting also adopted a statement by the Warsaw Treaty member-countries.

Political Consultative Committee General Secretary Zdenek Matejka, commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces General Petar Lushev and Chief of Staff of the Joint Armed Forces General Vladimir Lobov took part in the meeting.

The Soviet Union was represented at the meeting by USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov.

The meeting was held in a friendly, business-like atmosphere.

TASS Cites Statement

LD2502212291 Moscow TASS in English 1858 GMT
25 Feb 91

[Text] Budapest February 25 TASS—"Considering deep changes taking place in Europe and in implementation of the decisions of the Political Consultative Committee (PCC) Moscow meeting on June 7, 1990, the Warsaw Treaty member countries, acting as sovereign and equal states, decided to abolish the military bodies and structures of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation (WTO) by March 31, 1991," says a statement issued by the Warsaw Treaty member states.

The statement, circulated here today, was adopted here earlier in the day at an extraordinary meeting of the PCC at foreign and defence ministers' level.

Participants in the PCC meeting pointed out that the decision to abolish the WTO's military bodies and structures is expected to contribute to further reducing the military potentials in Europe and to moving from bloc-type to all-European security structures in the spirit of the accords reached at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Paris summit. They declared for ensuring through joint efforts a dynamic advance to objectives outlined during the Paris summit.

In the new atmosphere, the development of relations between the states represented at the PCC meeting will be consistently put on a bilateral basis. This accords with both mutual interest in constructive, friendly relations and contemporary European realities, the statement says.

Participants in the PCC meeting emphasised that strict compliance with the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty and the Vienna document on confidence-building measures is a major prerequisite for the strengthening of stability and security on the continent and further development of the Helsinki process.

Bessmertnykh, Yazov Comment

LD2502183491 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1600 GMT 25 Feb 91

[By special correspondents Viktor Levin and Sergey Shevikin]

[Text] [Announcer] A meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political consultative Committee was held in Budapest today at foreign minister and defense minister level. Our special correspondents Viktor Levin and Sergey Shevikin report.

[Correspondent] The meeting was not a long one—only three hours—but it was a very important one. It was decided to dissolve, before 1 April this year, the military structures of the Warsaw Pact Organization. But speaking of the significance of the decisions which were signed today, USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Bessmertnykh, said in an interview for Soviet Television and Radio:

[Begin recording] This is a routine stage of work which was started by the previous meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in Moscow, in June last year. Then, at the Moscow meeting of the Political Consultative Committee, it was decided in principle that the governments of the Warsaw Pact member states would jointly consider the matter of winding up the military functions of the Warsaw Pact, taking account of all those processes and changes which are taking place in the world and also the strategic doctrines and the defensive doctrines of the states. For this reason, at our present meeting today—and it was preceded by fairly active work of plenipotentiary governmental officials of all the states—we have considered the documents which have been prepared, in particular a protocol which lays down the conditions and basic tenets of winding up the military structure of the Warsaw Pact. This was the main task of the present conference. We think that at the present stage we have to move more actively to insure our interests with respect to other countries, on a bilateral basis, a basis of bilateral agreements and treaties. Such treaties are being elaborated with almost all states now. In general, we are now actively moving on to an understanding that what is important for the Soviet Union first and foremost is the security of the Soviet Union. The security of the rest of the world is also important to us, of course, but first and foremost we have to think of our security. [end recording]

[Correspondent] That was USSR Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh. Here is the view of Defense Minister Yazov:

[Begin recording] In continuation of what Aleksandr Aleksandrovich [Bessmertnykh] was saying, I would like to say that the Warsaw Pact was established as a counterbalance to the treaty created by the NATO bloc. And, in contemporary views of the world, such a bloc system does not facilitate peace. It creates the conditions for further confrontation. We, however, are striving for peace, and someone had to take the first step. So, we have taken the first step: The treaty on eliminating the military section, so to speak, of the Warsaw Pact. The Political Consultative Committee will continue to exist for some time, but in itself the fact that there will be no military section of the Warsaw Pact says a great deal—first and foremost about great trust.

How could it be otherwise? We agreed to the unification of Germany. We agreed to the withdrawal of troops from Europe. What sense is there in continuing to have, to have in formal terms I will say plainly, a Warsaw Pact which will not fulfill its functions. Now it is necessary to insure peace in other ways, by other means. So I think this is the most important thing. I am in solidarity with Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, he said that the most important thing now is to think about one's own people, about their defense, about defending the borders of our state. Today, we do not have enemies who plan to attack. But nevertheless, there must be defense. The state's defense capability must be strengthened. Irrespective of the fact that we have signed this treaty, in meeting with some defense ministers we have spoken of the need for future cooperation in the military sphere on a bilateral basis. [end recording]

Yazov Comments on Return to Moscow

LD2502233791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2141 GMT 25 Feb 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] [Announcer] Dmitriy Yazov and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh have returned to Moscow. [Begin recording] [Correspondent] In connection with the fact that the military structure of the Warsaw Pact Organization is to cease its existence on 31 March, how will the approach to the implementation of the Soviet Union's security change?

[Yazov] In my opinion, it will be just the opposite of what you have in mind, what you are thinking. Everything will be concentrated on the security of our state. We always used to talk about the security of the Warsaw Pact organization, of a group of states. Now we shall talk about the security of our own people, of our union. [end recording]

Bessmertnykh Meets With Pact Counterparts

LD2502185691 Moscow TASS in English 1649 GMT 25 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondents Sergey Zhirnikhin and Aleksandr Kuzmin]

[Text] Budapest February 25 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh continued bilateral meetings with his colleagues who are in Budapest to attend a conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact member-countries.

Bessmertnykh held a talk with Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Krzysztof Skubiszewski. The Polish minister said that the maintenance and development of good-neighborly relations with the Soviet Union remains one of the top priorities in the Polish Government policy.

Bessmertnykh told his Polish counterpart that the Soviet Union adhered to a similar approach. High on the agenda of relations between the two countries is the preparation of a new treaty to regulate in principle the entire complex of Soviet-Polish relations in the long term.

The ministers noted the attainability of compromise solutions to problems relating to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland and the transit of Soviet troops which are being withdrawn from Germany.

During the meeting with Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, an exchange of views was held on specific features of Soviet-Romanian relations at the present stage. Further steps were outlined to develop these relations to the two countries' mutual benefit, the ministers discussed ways to strengthen the legal and treaty basis of relations.

A number of specific aspects of Soviet-Bulgarian relations and plans for contacts at various levels were touched upon during the conversation between Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and Bulgarian Foreign Minister Viktor Vulkov.

Bessmertnykh, Yazov Leave Budapest

LD2502210891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1825 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Budapest, 25 Feb (TASS)—A.A. Bessmertnykh, USSR foreign minister, and Marshal of the Soviet Union D.T. Yazov, USSR defense minister, who took part in the extraordinary conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact member states at the foreign and defence minister level, left Budapest today.

D. Meiszter, deputy secretary of state of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lieutenant General L. Borsits, chief of the General Staff of the Hungarian Army, and other officials saw them off at Budapest Airport.

I.P. Aboimov, USSR's ambassador to Hungary, was among the seeing-off party at the airport.

General Ovchinnikov Comments on Dissolution

LD2502220591 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Excerpts] The Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact holds a meeting on 25 February in

Budapest at a foreign and defense minister level. On this very day a year ago the Soviet Union started to withdraw its troops from Eastern Europe. [passage omitted]

A new political climate is developing in Europe. This allowed the two military blocs, NATO and the Warsaw Pact, to declare last year their transformation into political organizations. This was followed by an agreement signed in Paris by the member countries of NATO and the Warsaw Pact on the reduction of conventional weapons in Europe. This preconditioned a curb on military activities. As far as the Warsaw Treaty Organization is concerned it has drained itself.

Our correspondent talked to the first deputy chief of military and political department of the Soviet Armed Forces, Colonel General Aleksandr Ovchinnikov. Here is what he said:

[Begin recording, in Russian with superimposed English translation] Seriously speaking, Europe is not the place for large military blocs. Now that the Warsaw Treaty

Organization is ceasing its activities one would expect NATO to act in the same way. Last year we repeatedly proposed first to form an alliance of the two blocs and second to dissolve these two military organizations. If we speak about a new way of thinking and if we do not threaten each other, then why hold on to two military blocs? Unfortunately, the NATO leaders do not make any announcements about the cessation of the bloc's military activity. Quite the contrary. We are informed that NATO is strengthening and consolidating its force. A question arises: against whom? Did not we acknowledge that there shouldn't be any war in our European home? From a military angle we are anxious of the recent developments, especially in the Gulf war, in which a number of NATO member states take part. It is natural that the Soviet military is pondering over the question: What will be next? Of course, there are doubts, and first of all, as to whether the disarmament process will go on in Europe or whether or not the present situation will shift the military balance and block the road to the all-European home. [end recording]

United States & Canada

Papers Assess Gulf Effect on Ties With U.S.

Relations as Equals Valued

PM2502194191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
26 Feb 91 Union Edition p 4

[V. Nadein report: "Relations Will Remain Good; United States Considers USSR Involvement in a Postwar Settlement in the Near East Important"]

[Text] Washington—Speaking on the popular national television program "This Week With David Brinkley," U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker said that, in his opinion, the Soviet Union can make a considerable positive contribution to resolving the existing problems in the Persian Gulf area. Coming 10 hours after the start of ground combat operations, this statement leaves us in no doubt as to how the U.S. would like to see relations with the Soviet Union in the immediate future.

The recent Soviet peace initiative at first met with such uncomplimentary commentaries in the United States that many people had doubts whether Soviet-U.S. relations would be maintained at their traditional level after this war. I must say straightaway that the White House and the State Department had nothing to do with this. Suspicions of sophisticated intrigues, of our desire to snatch the inevitable victory from the allies at any price, of our wish to keep Saddam Husayn's regime in power at all costs, and of pandering to Soviet conservatives, who do not see Husayn as a bloody dictator but as a fighter against imperialism—all these ideas were to be found individually and jointly in newspaper articles and commentaries by observers, political scientists, and, exceptionally, anonymous officials from various influential departments but not official government representatives.

President G. Bush, even when he rejected the terms for the Iraqi troops' unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait—which it proved possible to secure during difficult, exhausting talks in Moscow—invariably stressed both his respect for the Soviet efforts and the fact that he and President M.S. Gorbachev had constant consultations over the telephone.

Of course, the U.S. public, anticipating a great military victory, is very irritable at the mention of any encroachment on these laurels. Conservative circles are skillfully playing on this, spreading claims of ongoing USSR-Iraqi military cooperation.

Official sources have never confirmed this conjecture; however, this is a customary pastime for those people who are exploiting the patriotism that has been aroused. It is far more important from the political viewpoint that sober voices asserting that current events in the Persian Gulf zone are a "small local conflict that will rapidly be forgotten in the light of the tremendous historical phenomenon currently taking place in the Soviet Union"

have not fallen silent here during the war. This expression of Zbigniew Brzezinski's became famous two weeks ago following his testimony at the parliamentary hearings.

During the aforementioned "This Week With David Brinkley," U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker was asked whether the UN mandate will be completed after the allies' troops, passing through Iraqi territory, have cut off the Iraqi Armed Forces in Kuwait and liberated the country.

In the secretary of state's opinion, the overall purpose of all 12 UN Security Council resolutions is not only to liberate Kuwait and restore its legitimate government but also to ensure peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region.

In the opinion of a number of observers, the U.S. will in the very near future find it increasingly necessary to tackle in earnest projects that have temporarily been postponed because of the war. It is a question of the package of measures discussed during the meeting of the "Big Seven" in Houston—what people here, out of inertia, describe as the "Marshall Plan for the Soviet Union."

People here do not hide their alarm at the turn that events in the Soviet Union are taking, but they are also aware of something else. It is obvious to a number of this country's professional politicians that, in J. Baker's expression, "we could not have done what we have done" without the Soviet Union's positive attitude toward countering Iraqi aggression.

The certain difference in approaches toward solving the most serious conflict since the end of the "cold war" may—without breaching relations of trust—be instructive for both the USSR and the United States.

The United States should learn that, while sincerely valuing good relations with the leader of the Western world, Moscow has no intention of becoming the "younger brother" either in words or in deeds. In this respect, the Soviet Union's desire to seek strict observance of the framework of the UN Security Council's decision must not in any circumstances be interpreted as a reversion to the times of confrontation.

It is appropriate to remind those people who are inclined to see the differences that have emerged either as the embryo of future conflicts between the two military superpowers or even as the start of a second world "cold war" that the level of Soviet-U.S. cooperation that has existed since 2 August last year and continues to this day is, even on the most carping examination, an unprecedented phenomenon in world politics.

'Breakdown' Consequences Viewed

PM2602110891 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 91 p 5

[A. Vasilyev article: "USSR—United States: How Will We Live?"]

[Text] The two days that preceded the start of the offensive by U.S. ground forces and marines against the Iraqi troops' positions in Kuwait will certainly go down in world diplomatic history. Observing the political maneuvers of Moscow, Washington, and Baghdad was extremely interesting. The most exciting moment was the episode when Yuliy Vorontsov, the USSR's permanent representative to the United Nations, stated at a closed session of the Security Council that Iraq is prepared to accept not only the Soviet, but also the American plan for a peace settlement, and that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz had said so before leaving Moscow. Literally a couple of hours later, it was stated at the USSR Foreign Ministry press center that Moscow does not know what Yuliy Vorontsov's statements were based on.

This confusion has yet to be sorted out, but the fact remains: Baghdad was prepared for an unconditional withdrawal of troops and was prepared to examine the American side's stringent demands. As for Moscow, as CNN reported, M.S. Gorbachev called G. Bush immediately after T. 'Aziz had taken off, and proposed that the two peace settlement plans—U.S. and Soviet—be combined. Bush said "no."

Formally, the U.S. position is beyond reproach: The "Gorbachev plan" did not fully meet the Security Council resolutions adopted earlier, particularly on points relating to economic sanctions against Iraq. But resolutions are not dogma, and the U.S. has proved this by example, having gone beyond the bounds of these same decisions by the world community in the course of the bombings of Baghdad and Basra. Washington was from the outset only in the mood for the military way of resolving the conflict, and rejected peace initiatives not only after the start of operation "Desert Storm," but even before. If the White House had preferred the peaceful option, all the differences between the M.S. Gorbachev and G. Bush plans and the Security Council resolutions could have been discussed and eliminated. The U.S. President rejected his Soviet colleague's proposals because the "Gorbachev plan" presupposed, apart from a peace settlement, that Saddam Husayn would remain in power, whereas Washington is steering a course toward his removal.

In my view, recent events have put a stop to the romantic dreams of Soviet-U.S. cooperation in establishing a "new world order." After the Persian Gulf, Moscow and Washington will never trust each other to the degree that such cooperation requires. Washington will not trust Moscow because, while being a member of the anti-Iraq coalition, in effect it presented a Soviet-Iraqi plan. Moscow will not trust Washington because, after cooperating with the Kremlin at the early stages of the conflict, the White House then started to act in isolation, without taking account of the Soviet Union's interests.

The breakdown of Soviet-U.S. cooperation in the Persian Gulf will affect not only the situation in that region and bilateral Soviet-U.S. relations, but also the domestic

political situation in the Soviet Union. By carrying out missile and bomb attacks on Iraqi territory, Washington also struck against democratic forces in our country. After all, the USSR Foreign Ministry leadership in the time of E.A. Shevardnadze pursued a course of close cooperation with the Americans and was unequivocally associated with the "democrats." Now the "conservatives," thanks to the White House's bellicosity, have gained another pretext for criticizing the policy of Shevardnadze and democratic forces in general.

U.S. Reported Prey to 'Mass War Psychosis'

PM2502213591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
26 Feb 91 Second Edition p 5

[V. Linnik report: "Military Passion"]

[Text] New York, 25 Feb—So, diplomacy has failed to work. Attempts to avert the worst development of events have ended in failure. Why?

Everything indicates that the results of M.S. Gorbachev's talks with T. 'Aziz were seen by Washington, the U.S. mass media, and Congress as almost a blow to U.S. national interests and pride. "This is a potential tragedy!" K.A. Hughes, a WALL STREET JOURNAL observer, proclaimed regarding the Soviet peace plan. "The U.S. is in a corner and the President has been put in an awkward position," Congressman L. Aspin, one of the most vigorous advocates of war, up to and including the capture of Baghdad, said. "All this may be a nightmare, the worst possible scenario," NBC announcer T. Brokaw said with a tremor in his voice. It is not surprising that against this backdrop the White House gave its final verdict: The Soviet plan for a peaceful settlement is "unacceptable."

With the start of the ground campaign it has become quite impossible to understand anything from mass media reports about what is happening in the Persian Gulf. In the first day the allied troop command in Riyadh announced that 11 men had died in the course of the offensive. More people died on U.S. highways that day....

The U.S. is at the very height of the nationalistic, jingoistic fever and mass war psychosis that is gripping the country.

Northeast Asia

'Resistance' to Kim Chong-il Succession Cited

PM2602111691 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 26 Feb 91 p 5

[Unattributed report under general heading: "What Is Happening in Asia?"]

[Text] Hanoi—According to AFP, there are signs in North Korea of resistance to the planned handover of power by Kim Il-song to his son Kim Chong-il. The

report cites a radio program from Pyongyang, which says that "false ideological trends," seeking to destroy the "blood succession," have been thwarted. In another broadcast, a leading military man expresses support for Kim the younger, while certain others "call into question his leading role."

South Korea's New Travel Policy Examined

SK2602121191 Moscow International Service
in Korean 0900 GMT 15 Feb 91

[Sergey Petrov commentary]

[Text] With the previous forbidden rule on visiting socialist countries, there was a clear cold war trend that divided the world into foe and ally. Until now, the ROK people needed to be authorized in advance with the special permission of the Foreign Ministry to visit the Soviet Union. When anyone made a trip to the communist countries without special permission, it was regarded as a grave criminal act that did harm to national security. Now, however, they can make a trip to those countries as long as they inform the government authorities of it.

It is difficult for me to believe that the South Korean political and working-level delegations or individuals would do any harm to the (?national) security if they visited the Soviet Union without it. Furthermore, after the establishment of diplomatic ties between our two countries in last September, I think this issue has lost its validity. Now, journalists, scholars, college students, as well as politicians and businessmen have begun their periodical mutual visits. Thereby, the ROK government has decided to cancel this anachronistic stipulation.

The new law [word indistinct] the mutual relations to [word indistinct]. Without the help of the press editorials that infuriate, denounce, and warn the other party, we are learning to understand, tell a story, and cooperate with each other normally as human beings. Anyway, the law has not taken the new procedures into consideration in their visiting other countries—such as China, Vietnam, Albania, Cambodia, and Cuba—which have no diplomatic ties with the ROK. In this respect, we should refer to the previous basis of the ROK's foreign policy. I would firmly say now, however, that there would be no (?such restrictions) in the near future.

I would like to expect that the ROK will assume a comprehensive nature in the course of normalizing contact with the other countries, and that it will first take such a nature on the Korean Peninsula itself. I also would say this given the possibility that the North and South Korean people will freely come and go to each other. With this in mind, a new logic should be kept to the end.

Near East & South Asia

Ignatenko Briefs Press on Soviet Gulf Stand

Favors 'Integral, Unbroken' Iraq

LD2602135391 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1305 GMT 26 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev, Sergey Postanogov, and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Feb (TASS)—The Soviet Union favors a peaceful, prosperous, and flourishing Middle East, including such an important country as Iraq, Vitaliy Ignatenko, aid to the president of the USSR and head of his press service, said at a briefing here today.

Answering journalists' questions on the post-crisis state system of that country, he stressed that by this was meant an "integral, unbroken [nerazbitiy]" Iraq. Who would head the country, and what the state of its administrative structures would be, is for the Iraq people themselves to resolve, Vitaliy Ignatenko noted. The Soviet Union will not try to influence the situation arising in that country in any way, Vitaliy Ignatenko said.

Says Saddam 'Missed' Chance for Peace

LD2602141391 Moscow TASS in English 1339 GMT
26 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev, Sergey Postanogov, and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has "missed" the chance for a political settlement in the Gulf, Soviet Presidential Spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko told a briefing here today.

Asked about the Soviet president's attitude to the land offensive by the U.S.-led multinational force, Ignatenko said "it was Saddam Husayn, who missed the chance for peace".

"The land offensive could have waited. If we could have integrated all proposals by President Bush and President Gorbachev, If Baghdad had earlier agreed to the strict terms it complied with today, even with the tougher terms set by the U.S. President, if all this had been done via the U.N. Security Council's institutes and instruments, the land offensive might not have been needed," Ignatenko said.

On 'Working in Accord' With U.S.

LD2602143791 Moscow TASS in English 1422 GMT
26 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev, Sergey Postanogov, and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—Soviet Presidential Spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko has not ruled out the possibility of the United States using the right of veto if

the U.N. Security Council adopts a decision unfavourable for the U.S. towards settling the Gulf crisis.

Asked at today's briefing what "pressure" the Soviet Union may exert if the U.S. does not agree to a ceasefire, while the USSR insists on the resolutions rejecting the use of force against Iraq, Ignatenko said: "I think we shall be working in accord with the United States in the Security Council. I don't think we shall be exerting any pressure. That period in our life and diplomacy is long since past".

Touching upon relations between the Soviet Union and the United States on the road "to a fair world order", the presidential assistant expressed the opinion that the way can be found in the Security Council and in personal meetings of the leaders of the two countries or in relations between the U.S. Department of State and the Soviet Foreign Ministry. "This understanding is at the basis of the strategic course of the two countries", he said. "This understanding will be manifested in specific actions. I believe it will be manifested also in the Security Council".

On Gorbachev Trip, Iraqi Withdrawal

LD2602155391 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1350 GMT 26 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev, Sergey Postanogov, and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 26 Feb (TASS)—Vitaliy Ignatenko, aide to the USSR president and head of his press service, began his briefing today with information on USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Belorussia, which began on Tuesday. He announced that during the trip, that will last several days, the USSR president will visit areas that suffered as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station accident, will go to Minsk, Gomel, and Mogilev.

Moving on to international events, the head of the USSR president's press service drew attention to today's statement by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn that the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait will be completed on 26 February. This, according to him, very seriously changes the entire situation in the region, including in military terms.

Answering journalists' questions, Vitaliy Ignatenko stressed that the USSR supports the concept whereby Iraq "would accept all 12 resolutions for fulfillment." As to whether Iraq will manage to withdraw its troops from Kuwait in one day, "that is a practical matter for Iraq; in any event, it should try, in order to avoid casualties and further destruction," he said. [passage omitted]

Bessmertnykh on Soviet Role in Postwar Security

LD2602155291 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1514 GMT 26 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Yuriy Rodionov]

[Text] Moscow, 26 (TASS)—The Soviet Union will play its part in the forming of the postwar security structure not only in the Persian Gulf zone, but in the entire Near East region as well. USSR Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh stated this in an interview for a TASS correspondent on yesterday evening upon his return from Budapest. The minister expressed regret that the chance to make use of Iraq's agreement to have a peaceful settlement was not used. Nonetheless, he is of the view that the task of forming a post war structure is coming to a head.

Aleksandr Bessmertnykh continued that the USSR has ideas of its own on this score, and it will consult the relevant countries of the region since, in the final analysis, it is precisely these countries that will, first and foremost, have to form a security system. The Soviet Union is aware that this cannot be done without its participation, and that is why major political and diplomatic tasks lie ahead and together with the countries of the Near East region, of Europe and other leading world powers, the USSR will cope with them.

The minister also noted that the Soviet Union will even more vigorously defend its line, which has always consisted of "ensuring the interests of the Arab people of Iraq, the Arab people of Kuwait, and the Arab people's of the whole region". The USSR has never had any selfish goals. This policy will be continued and even intensified, since the problem of ensuring security in this region is to a tangible extent part and parcel of ensuring universal security, the minister emphasized in conclusion.

Belonogov Briefs Press on Gulf Peace Efforts

Says Saddam Message Received

LD2602110191 Moscow TASS in English 0930 GMT
26 Feb 91

[Aleksandr Kanishchev and Sergey Postanogov report]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—"Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived at the Soviet Embassy in Baghdad early today. He conveyed President Saddam Husayn's message to us," Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov said, speaking at a briefing here on the Gulf crisis.

Calls For Cease-Fire

LD2602121591 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1025 GTM 26 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev and Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Feb (TASS)—USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov spoke at a briefing in Moscow today about the need for a cease-fire in the Persian Gulf region, given that Iraq has announced the

unconditional and immediate withdrawal of troops from Kuwait in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 660.

He stressed that "the very fact that withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait has begun"—which he described as a "big shift in Iraq's position"—is a fundamentally new element in the situation that has now emerged in the Persian Gulf region.

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov stated at the briefing here today that USSR UN representative Yuliy Vorontsov had, in accordance with instructions received from Moscow, provided information on President Saddam Husayn's message on the beginning of a withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Recalling that a closed session of the UN Security Council was currently under way, the deputy minister noted: "We proceed from the premise that the Security Council has to carry out its task and play a constructive role in the conditions that have arisen, so as to secure the shortest path of fulfilling its own commitments." "It has such an opportunity," the diplomat added.

He expressed the hope that all members of the Security Council, acknowledging their responsibility both individually and collectively, would properly assess all aspects of the new situation that has arisen following Iraq's decision to withdraw its troops from Kuwait, and would ensure everything to implement UN Security Council Resolution 660. In his words, the latter is aimed at restoring the independence and sovereignty of Kuwait.

Switching to answering journalists' questions, Aleksandr Belonogov called "the very fact of the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait" a fundamentally new element in the development of the situation in the Gulf.

"If one wishes," he stressed, commenting on the position of those who share the position on the continuation of military action at the current level, "many reasons and pretexts may be found to remain deaf to calls for a cease-fire. However, Iraq is not presenting any conditions; it is ready to withdraw its troops, and we cannot see any [words indistinct] in Iraq's position for there not to be a cease-fire."

According to him, a cease-fire on land and in the air will create the conditions for the minimum time period required for the withdrawal of troops.

As the deputy minister stated, the position of the USSR is one of principle and is very clear—it keeps its force in full measure. The USSR voted in favor of all 12 resolutions, and we are no less committed to the implementation of each of them than other members of the Security Council.

In addition to this, he noted that a real opportunity had appeared to cut short the military phase of the conflict and switch to the phase of political settlement. "For us it

is evident that it is in everyone's interests to cease military action if there are no longer any real reasons for it," the diplomat stressed.

Sees 'Major Change' in Iraqi Position

LD2602135591 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1221 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Aleksandr Kanishchev and Sergey Postanogov report]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Feb (TASS)—Today the Soviet Union called for a cease-fire in the Persian Gulf in connection with Iraq's announcement of the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of its troops from Kuwait in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 660. At a briefing in Moscow today, USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov stated the need for a cease-fire in military actions on land, in the air, and at sea.

He particularly stressed that the "very fact Iraqi troops have started to withdraw from Kuwait" is a fundamentally new element in the Persian Gulf situation which justify the need for a transition to a peaceful political settlement of the conflict with Iraq. He called this "a major change in Iraq's position".

The USSR deputy foreign minister said that Yuliy Vorontsov, the USSR's UN representative, in accordance with instructions from Moscow, informed the UN Security Council about President Saddam Husayn's message, received last night via the Soviet Embassy in Baghdad, that Iraqi troops had begun to withdraw from Kuwait.

Recalling that a closed sitting of the UN Security Council is now under way, Aleksandr Belonogov stated: "We proceed from the premise that the Security Council should carry out its task and play a constructive role, given the new circumstances, in ensuring the quickest route to fulfill its own obligations." As we know, the main obligation is the liberation and restoration of the independence and sovereignty of Kuwait.

In his words, Iraq is no longer advancing any conditions for the withdrawal of its troops and "we do not see flaws in Iraq's position to hinder a cease-fire". A cease-fire on land and in the air will create the conditions for ensuring that the timescale is minimal. The withdrawal of troops during military actions disorganizes. [sentence as received]

"A real opportunity has appeared to curtail the military phase of the conflict and to turn it into a phase of political settlement" said the diplomat. "For us it is clear that it is in the general interests to end military actions if there are no longer real reasons for them."

Aleksandr Belonogov reported that he was unaware of a telephone conversation last night between U.S. President George Bush and President Mikhail Gorbachev who "is out of Moscow".

The Soviet Government spokesman expressed the hope that the UN Security Council will, in the shortest period, complete their consideration of the situation "taking account of all the new circumstances and make a decision on a cease-fire". "We would like to count on a unanimous UN Security Council decision. That will facilitate the way out of the military situation and will immediately put an end to the bloodshed."

New Initiative on Gulf Proposed at United Nations

LD2502213491 Moscow TASS in English 2036 GMT 25 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondents Mikhail Kochetkov and Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations February 25 TASS—New Soviet initiative relating to a peace settlement of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis was presented today in the U.N. Security Council.

At a request from the Soviet Union, the Security Council was convened for urgent consultations to discuss a package of Soviet proposals. The Soviet Union proposes for the Security Council to set a date for the beginning of the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and establish a short term for the completion of such withdrawal.

According to the Soviet Union, an opportunity will then offer itself to raise the question of an end to hostilities as well as of the creation of a mechanism of control over the compliance of the set terms.

These Soviet proposals had been preliminarily discussed with the Security Council chairman and representatives of a number of member-states of the Security Council, a U.N. major body responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

TASS was told that the proposals had been also brought to the notice of the countries involved in hostilities against Iraq as well as the Iraqi representatives in the United Nations. Anti-Iraqi coalition members did not express any objections in principle.

Soviet diplomats express hope that this plan will prove acceptable to all sides, however no official response has yet arrived from Baghdad.

This is the Soviet Union's second attempt in the past few days to reach a peaceful settlement of the Gulf Crisis. On February 23, the Security Council discussed proposals coordinated with the Iraqi delegation in Moscow. They evoked some objections on the part of security council members. The attempt by several countries to coordinate the document approved in Moscow with the proposals by the United States were disrupted on Saturday by the beginning of the ground offensive against Iraq.

Saddam Message to Gorbachev Read

LD2602054691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0452 GMT 26 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Maslov]

[Text] United Nations, 26 Feb (TASS)—At around midnight local time, the UN Security Council began a closed session that was convened urgently at the request of the Soviet Union to examine the question of the settlement of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis.

Speaking at the sitting, Yuliy Vorontsov, permanent representative of the USSR to the UN, on the instructions of the Soviet leadership informed the Security Council that Moscow had just received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn addressed to President Mikhail Gorbachev. It says:

"The Iraqi leadership has decided in accordance with resolution 660 (UN Security Council) to immediately withdraw all its troops from Kuwait. The order for that has already been given. I ask you to apply urgent efforts toward the adoption UN Security Council resolutions on a ceasefire. The time limit for implementing the withdrawal of troops, which has begun already, will be very short."

I think the urgent appeal of the Iraqi president does not demand any elucidations from the Soviet side, Yuliy Vorontsov said. He stressed that according to the statement of the Iraqis, the withdrawal of troops had already begun; therefore, the Security Council may adopt the relevant resolution.

The session of the UN Security Council is continuing.

Iraqi UN Envoy on Withdrawal

LD2602064191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0548 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] United Nations, 26 Feb (TASS)—I intend to confirm the obligation of Iraq to withdraw its troops from the territory of Kuwait, 'Abd al-Amir al-Anbari, permanent representative of Iraq to the UN, who had come to the urgent closed sitting of the Security Council, told journalists.

We have spoken of that time and again, he continued. Some members of the coalition of multinational forces—particularly the United States and Israel—do not want a cease-fire and a peaceful withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. We hope that all the lies and hypocrisy that have been used to discredit Iraq will be revealed tonight when the official position of Iraq will be presented completely clearly and answers will be given to all the questions of the members of the Security Council.

We state that we are ready to implement completely Resolution 660 of the UN Security Council, the Iraqi representative stressed.

Yanayev Views Soviet Gulf Peace Initiatives**Disappointed at Nonacceptance**

*LD2502180591 Moscow International Service
in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Feb 91*

[Interview with USSR Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded; Yanayev speaks in Russian with superimposed Arabic translation]

[Text] The unprecedented diplomatic efforts deployed by a number of countries, including the Soviet Union, failed to avert the start of the ground war in the Gulf. A realistic chance, symbolized by the initiative of President Mikhail Gorbachev, aimed at peacefully solving the conflict without resorting to any human casualties and material damage, was missed.

Our correspondent asked Soviet Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev to assess the current situation.

[Yanayev] I was extremely disappointed to see that the proposals and the peace formula prepared during recent meetings between President Gorbachev and the Iraqi foreign minister were not accepted by the anti-Iraqi alliance. Once again we could not take advantage of the political opportunity to avert bloodshed on a large-scale. I expect that further land operations will considerably increase the number of dead, and could create an impasse regarding the situation. I would not dare to predict the repercussions, because once such large-scale military operations begin, generally each side uses everything it possesses. Therefore I am very worried at seeing deadly weapons put into use, and seeing other countries join the conflict.

I am also concerned about the ecological ramifications of this military conflict. We should be worried, because the large-scale operations are taking part just 125 kms away from our southern borders. It is only natural, therefore, to witness the extreme concern of Soviet citizens following the failure to avoid an escalation in the ensuing war.

[Reporter] Do you think that the renewed call to the allied forces to reconsider their stance during this phase, and to put an immediate halt to military operations, will be heeded?

[Yanayev] The Soviet leadership and President Gorbachev are doing their best to halt the war machine. President Gorbachev has had another telephone conversation with President Bush. On behalf of the Soviet people and the Soviet leadership, he appealed to President Bush to reconsider the latest decision. I believe that if a 1 percent chance to find peace exists, one should use it. Hence, the Soviet Union will not interrupt its diplomatic and political activity. I have not lost hope that the political factor will have its impact in this connection, and that sound logic from both sides will win the day.

Views Need for Political Solution

*LD2502235191 Moscow Central Television First
Program Network in Russian 2141 GMT 25 Feb 91*

[Report on telephone interview with Soviet Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev by Dmitriy Kiselev; place and date not given; from the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] [Kiselev] The whole world's attention is now on the war in the Gulf. Moreover, there are new developments. The Soviet Union cannot remain indifferent to large-scale military operations near its southern borders. This statement by Soviet Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev is being reported by Western news agencies as a sensation. Furthermore, they refer to Yanayev's interview with Moscow Radio where the vice president emphasized new accents.

Recently, the telephone has become more and more fashionable. Gathering up my courage, I phoned the vice president not long before the broadcast of the evening news, and here is what happened. Listen to the recording:

[Begin recording] [Yanayev] First, I have in mind that [word indistinct] political chance to resolve [word indistinct]...[end recording]

[Kiselev] The audibility was indistinct, so it is better if I cite the USSR vice president word for word: A political opportunity to resolve the question has been missed. What was achieved in the accord between Gorbachev and 'Aziz overlaps with the accords of many other countries. Until now it was not worth losing any chance to try and shift the conflict into a political channel. I propose that we needed to avoid the casualties that there will now be—and right now the Americans are carefully concealing their losses. So it is necessary—via the UN Security Council—to find a political solution to the problem—end of quote.

The USSR vice president mentioned the Security Council here; however, everyone knows that namely in the UN Security Council resolution the Soviet and Iraqi accords of recent days were not taken into full account. Therefore I asked Gennadiy Yanayev: Are there not fears that we are moving in the Near East toward a new arrangement of forces? On the one hand Iraq and the USSR, and on the other the 35 countries of the anti-Iraq coalition that represent practically all of the world community? Here is what Gennadiy Yanayev said: We are not placing in doubt our position regarding the coalition. We consider our position to be highly moral because any aggressor should be punished, but the punishment of the aggressor should be adequate [adekvatnom]. I propose that the coalition was hasty, said the USSR vice president in a telephone interview for Television News Service.

'No Confirmation Yet' of Iraqi Withdrawal

LD2602113891 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1005 GMT 26 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Feb (TASS)—Major General Vladimir Zhurbenko, deputy head of a main department of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, has described Operation Desert Storm by the multinational forces in the zone of the Persian Gulf as "without analogue since the World War II." He said in an interview with a TASS correspondent that in its design, scope, and methods of combat employment, the concluding phase of the operation was of the nature of an air-land-sea engagement.

In the view of Vladimir Zhurbenko, the bombardment of Iraq, which has lasted more than 30 days, had the aim of not only inflicting defeat on the armed forces of Iraq, but of destroying Iraq's military-economic potential. "The development of events show, he believes, that the aims of the bombardment envisaged much more than just the liberation of Kuwait, and the whole scenario of the course of the military action confirms this." [quotation marks as received]

"The land-based military operations unleashed by the multinational forces of the coalition have already exceeded the mandate of the UN Security Council, and have effectively turned into the destruction of Iraq as a state," the general pointed out.

Commenting upon the course of the land-based military operations, Vladimir Zhurbenko stressed that by the morning of 26 February on the maritime [word indistinct] developing in the direction of Kuwait City, the coalition troops have penetrated up to 50 kilometers and started the assault upon the capital of Kuwait. On the Iraqi territory, the coalition troops have advanced by up to 60 kilometers and are successfully developing the offensive northwards towards the town of Nasiriyah.

As the general has reported, during the night of 26 February [as received] Baghdad Radio broadcast an order by Saddam Husayn for the Iraqi troops to leave Kuwait and return to the positions occupied by them on 1 August 1990—that is, before the occupation of Kuwait.

"There is no confirmation yet of the beginning of the withdrawal of the troops," General Zhurbenko pointed out.

Reports, Commentaries View Ground Offensive

PRAVDA Cites Baker on Progress

PM2602114091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
26 Feb 91 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Baker Explains..."]

[Text] New York, 25 Feb—The situation in the Persian Gulf region is presently developing successfully for the

U.S. armed forces engaged in ground action there. At the same time it must not be forgotten that they still "have much to do." So said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The U.S. secretary of state rejected the suggestion that the United States hurried to begin the ground offensive against Iraqi troops in Kuwait because of fears that the initiative for settling the crisis in the Persian Gulf was being taken by the Soviet Union, which had presented a plan for ending the war. He described the Soviet initiative as unacceptable to the United States, but stated at the same time that "broad contacts, especially in the past week, between President Gorbachev and President Bush and between myself and the foreign minister" provide no grounds for a negative interpretation of the motives by which the USSR is guided in its policy regarding the Persian Gulf. "I expect you know that the President described their efforts as very useful, stating that we value them," Baker went on.

Without stating directly that the removal of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn from power is a U.S. policy objective, Baker noted that such a turn of events would facilitate the tasks of postwar arrangements in the Near East. If the present government remains in Baghdad, then, he said, the U.S. will insist on maintaining measures—including the embargo—to prevent Iraq's restoration of a "disproportionately huge military might and attempts to renew its weapons of mass destruction."

Attack Adds 'Alarming Element'

LD2502164691 Moscow TASS in English 1528 GMT
25 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—Recent Soviet statements on the tragic development of Gulf events boil down to the view that a new situation had emerged as a result of the Iraqi leadership's announced consent to withdraw its troops completely and immediately from Kuwait. This, the Soviet leadership believes, has made perfectly possible a quick achievement of the main goal pursued by the U.N. Security Council mandate.

In the course of his telephone contacts with leaders of several Western and Arab states, Mikhail Gorbachev, who previously had talks in Moscow with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, expressed the conviction that Baghdad's announced readiness to comply with the main demand of the Security Council resolutions had allowed this U.N. body to work out, in the same spirit of mutual understanding and high responsibility, a new mandate, based on all existing proposals, complaints and on the results of a thorough discussion of problems, engendered by the war and conflict in that region.

However, President Bush's order to launch ground operations against Iraq, issued in the early morning of February 24, added a new alarming element to the

situation. As noted in the Soviet Government's statement, announced here on Sunday, we have here an urge for a military settlement, in spite of the fact that Iraq's consent to pull its troops out of Kuwait in keeping with the U.N. Security Council resolution 660 had paved the way to the settling of the Gulf conflict by political means.

In light of this, it appears, the international community is now confronted not only with serious peace-making problems, but also problems of a conceptual character, concerning the authority of the United Nations organization and the efficiency of its mechanisms for settling conflicts. Nobody is now able to predict at what stage will ground operations of the multinational forces be stopped and to what extent their actions will correspond in the foreseeable future to the mandate of the U.N. Security Council.

The main danger is that hostilities might escape from international control, causing incalculable human losses and destruction. It is believed in the USSR that it is still not [too] late to agree on formulas of a peaceful settlement, and the Security Council, which is now in session, must immediately get down to the discussion of the present situation.

Diplomacy Needed To Avoid Casualties

*LD2602044991 Moscow World Service in English
2300 GMT 25 Feb 91*

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] In the early hours after the start of the ground war, more than 10 servicemen were killed and the Navy fleet hospital in eastern Saudi Arabia began receiving wounded soldiers. According to a spokesman for the U.S. military command, the first day's losses were light; however, this view is hardly shared by the families of those Americans who were killed or wounded.

All the more so, these and all other deaths in the Gulf in the last few days could have been avoided. The ground war order came at a time when, as a result of the talks between President Gorbachev and the Iraqi envoy in Moscow, a real chance emerged to ensure fulfillment of the UN resolutions without war. The differences between the Soviet plan accepted in Baghdad and the plan President Bush insisted on were insignificant; they could have been reconciled within a day or two.

For one thing, Iraq gave its consent to pull its troops out of Kuwait in three weeks, while the United States gave the country one week to accomplish this. Was this unsettled matter really the reason for starting a large-scale war on land and sacrificing the lives of American and other servicemen and building up tensions in the region?

Apparently the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions, the chief of which is to liberate Kuwait, has become too tight for U.S. policy. There is every indication that broader tasks are now being set. Washington is

speaking about a need to eliminate the government in Iraq and destroy its military potential. In fact, as a result of the more than 100,000 sorties that have been flown up to date, the entire infrastructure of that country is being destroyed. Bombs have been dropped on transport facilities, bridges, communications lines, industrial facilities, schools, residential areas, and air raid shelters.

Since the beginning of the land offensive, the allied forces have been fighting in the territory of Iraq. All this is far from the UN mandate outlined in 12 Security Council resolutions, the mandate that provided the basis for the coalition to curb the Iraqi aggression.

Some politicians in the United States are attempting to create the impression that the USSR is more interested than the United States in complying with the UN resolutions and in searching for a political solution to the Gulf crisis. On this presumption the former Pentagon deputy chief Richard Perle believes that in this case diplomacy is totally unnecessary and America must not give in.

However, the real chance to restore peace in the Gulf in the wake of the efforts made in Moscow could do a service to all the countries involved in the conflict. The UN Security Council will undoubtedly continue searching for a peaceful solution before it's too late.

It seems that this raises rather than puts down the role of diplomacy today. Diplomacy is the only way for America, Iraq, and other countries to avoid unnecessary casualties.

World Peace Council Demands Gulf Cease-Fire

*LD2502090691 Moscow TASS in English 0847 GMT
25 Feb 91*

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki February 25 TASS—The World Peace Council has demanded an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf.

The lack of good will and an old instinct calling for the use of force and for a military solution have plunged the world into an extremely dangerous situation, reads a statement signed by council President Evangelos Macheras and Executive Secretary Ray Stewart and distributed here on Sunday.

Not all possibilities have been lost, the statement reads. It calls on Iraq to announce an immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. The resolution calls on the United States and their allies to stop hostilities against Iraq immediately.

The Council also calls on the UN Security Council to do everything possible to put an end to the bloodshed and search for ways to a peace settlement, the resolution reads.

5,000 Demonstrate in Caucasus for Iraq

AU2502115191 Paris AFP in English 1124 GMT
25 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Moscow, Feb 25 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] The independent INTERFAX news agency reported that some 5,000 people had demonstrated on Sunday [24 February] in support of Iraq in Makhachkala, capital of the Caucasus autonomous republic of Dagestan.

The meeting, sponsored by the religious council of Moslems, denounced military actions against Baghdad and expressed willingness to provide Iraq with material aid and, if necessary, to send volunteers, INTERFAX said.

Uzbekistan Calls For New Steps To End Gulf War

LD2502102191 Moscow TASS in English 1005 GMT
25 Feb 91

[Bt TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—The Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan is deeply concerned about the further escalation of the acute international conflict in the Gulf area, it is pointed out in the appeal of Uzbek parliamentarians to the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet president, which was circulated in the Soviet parliament today.

"This bloody war is claiming the lives of innocent people, destroying peaceful towns and villages, unique cultural and historical centres, monuments of Arab and Moslem civilisation, is causing catastrophic ecological damages and leading to the confrontation of peoples and nations," the appeal says.

It is becoming increasingly obvious, the Uzbek parliamentarians note, that not all possibilities have been used to settle the crisis by political means. They urged the USSR Supreme Soviet and "the Soviet president to use their authority and influence in the world community and to take additional steps in order to put an immediate end to the bloodletting and hostilities."

Kuwaiti Envoy Praises Soviet Stand on Gulf War

LD2502205291 Moscow International Service
in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Interview with Kuwaiti Ambassador 'Abd al-Mohsen al-Du'ayj by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] On 25 February, the Kuwaiti people mark their national day, which coincides this year with the 30th independence anniversary.

[al-Du'ayj] I would like to thank you and thank Radio Moscow for being the first to congratulate us on our national day, which is the 30th anniversary. Obviously, Kuwait is still under the occupation of the Iraq regime. [passage omitted]

Next year, God willing, we will mark two national days: The 31st anniversary of Kuwait's independence, and the first anniversary of perestroika [preceding word spoken in Russian] in the Arab world, the credit for which is due to Kuwait. Kuwait has made huge sacrifices through its occupation; however, the lessons learned will be interesting regarding our Arab region. Kuwait will form the beginning of Arab perestroika. Next year on this day we will mark Kuwait's independence, and the first year of Arab perestroika.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. On this occasion, what can you tell us about the stand of the Soviet Union regarding this crisis?

[al-Du'ayj] The position of the Soviet Union has been a principled and firm stand since 2 August, when the former Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, and his counterpart James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, offered a principled basis for solving this problem—that is, the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy.

Since that very day and up to today, and up to the recent visit of His Excellency Shaykh Sabah Al Ahmad, our country's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who met with President Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union has emphasized its full commitment to the international resolutions and to the need for Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. Kuwait's contemporary history will proudly record the great stand of the Soviet Union, that contributed considerably and will continue to do so—even though Kuwait is still under occupation—until Kuwait recovers its former situation. [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] Thank you. In conclusion, we congratulate you and we hope that legitimacy and independence will be restored to Kuwait.

[al-Du'ayj] Thank you. After having been through this experience and this difficult test with our Soviet friends, we hope that this test will form a strong foundation for developing and bolstering relations among peoples, between the Kuwaiti and Soviet peoples. We hope that this will go further than government contacts and that contacts will be between individuals and the Soviet people. We at the Embassy would like to tell our Soviet friends that following the liberation of Kuwait we would like you to visit us in great numbers, to see Kuwait and to contribute toward rebuilding the Kuwait of the future. Thank you.

Kuwaiti Envoy Gives National Day Address

LD2502175991 Moscow Central Television First
Program Network in Russian 1616 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Address by 'Abd al-Mohsen al-Du'ayj, ambassador of Kuwait to the USSR; place and date not given]

[Text] Esteemed Soviet Television viewers, each year on this day we organize a reception in the Mezhdunarodnaya Hotel on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Kuwait. This reception was always known as the reception of the year. I am confident that Kuwait will be successful, that the aggressor will suffer defeat, and that next year we shall, for the 31st time, mark Kuwait's national holiday. At the same time it will be the first festive occasion for perestroika in the Middle East, which will come about thanks to the great sacrifices of the Kuwaiti people.

Those who occupied Kuwait could not break the Kuwaiti people, who continue to work, to create, and to amaze the entire world by their potential. Kuwaiti establishments and organizations abroad continue their activities. The sons of Kuwait continue their studies outside their motherland. The Saudi town of Taif has become Kuwait's political capital. The Egyptian town of Cairo has become the information capital of Kuwait, and London has become the financial capital of Kuwait. The United Nations initiated the decisions aimed at liberating Kuwait. The multinational forces, whose goal is the liberation of Kuwait, unite representatives of 30 states.

The USSR and the United States have unanimously called for a complete withdrawal of the aggressor's troops and for the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate authorities, and for compliance with all resolutions of the UN Security Council on this issue.

The large sacrifices Kuwait has had to bear will become an important lesson of life for the whole region. Some imagined dreams will disappear.

The Nile River will remain Egypt's property. The Tigris River will remain Iraq's property. Kuwaiti oil belongs to Kuwait. Mecca and Medina are under the protection of the Custodian of the two Holy mosques. No one has the right to claim what belongs to someone else.

Relations will be based on the observance of the principle of equal rights and mutual interests of states within the framework of the new international thinking. Relations between Kuwait and the USSR have a strong and continuous foundation. These relations were not broken or affected by changes, even in conditions of crisis, because they are based on the principles of voluntariness and mutual respect. Our ties with the USSR in various fields, be it politics, economics, culture or security will continue to develop with even greater enthusiasm, especially after this test, now withstood successfully, which they were subject to.

Allow me to sincerely offer a big thank you to the Soviet people for their support. Thanks to the Soviet leadership for help in preserving the independence and sovereignty of Kuwait. Thanks to all those who wrote and phoned Kuwait's embassy, expressing the desire to become volunteers and to go to defend Kuwait's independence. Allow me, on behalf of the Kuwaiti people, to express words of gratitude to President Gorbachev and to wish

success to the Soviet people in carrying out the policy of perestroika. Thank you for your attention.

West Europe

Nordic Council Warned Against Interference

LD2502144191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1328 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Moscow, 25 Feb (TASS)—Yuriy Gremitskikh [USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Directorate first deputy head] today announced the USSR's desire to see a response from the northerners to the proposals expressed in 1989 by the USSR president in Helsinki on establishing cooperation between the Nordic Council and the USSR Supreme Soviet, as well as the Supreme Soviets of the northwest part of the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

At the same time, the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative drew attention to the fact that only representatives of the Baltic Soviet republics have been invited to discuss practical matters of cooperation, while a corresponding application by the Russian Federation has been declined. It is difficult to consider such an approach politically just, noted the diplomat.

He also drew attention to the attempts by certain participants to nudge the Nordic Council toward positions that could constitute interference in the USSR's internal affairs. "It should be clear," stressed Yuriy Gremitskikh, "that if this happens, our cooperation with the Nordic Council and its individual participants will be damaged. In the spirit of the Helsinki and Paris documents, the Soviet Union is seeking means of interaction, not aggravation, and is calling for cooperation, not confrontation. We hope that our partners in the north of Europe will act in the same spirit."

Baltic Presence at Nordic Council Session Opposed

LD2402121591 Moscow TASS in English 1158 GMT 24 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Dodonov]

[Text] Helsinki February 24 TASS—The Finnish Government does not support the proposal to invite observers from the Baltic republics to a Nordic Council session, the newspaper UUSI SUOMI reported on Saturday.

This decision was brought to the knowledge of the Finnish delegation which is leaving for Copenhagen to attend the Nordic Council session.

The newspaper reports that representatives of Denmark tabled, with the support of Norwegian parliamentarians, the proposal that observer status be granted to representatives of the Baltic republics in the Nordic Council. Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian parliamentarians expressed the same wish.

The Finnish foreign policy establishment thinks that the permanent frameworks of the Nordic Council's activity should not be changed and it is inexpedient to interfere in foreign policy issues and allow outsiders to participate in the session.

Finland To Extradite Aeroflot Hijacker

*LD2502144291 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1359 GMT 25 Feb 91*

[By TASS correspondent Arkadiy Prisyazhnyy]

[Excerpts] Helsinki, 25 Feb (TASS)—Soviet citizen Aleksandr Vilesov, who, on 15 November 1990, hijacked an Aeroflot plane on the Leningrad-Moscow route and forced it to land at Helsinki-Vantaa airport, will be returned to the Soviet Union. A decision on this was made by the Finnish Ministry of Justice today. [passage omitted] The ministry's decision is final and not liable to review. It notes that A. Vilesov should be handed over to the Soviet side within the next two weeks. A. Vilesov is the fourth hijacker to be extradited. All others are currently in the USSR.

Supreme Soviet

Committee Condemns Gulf Ground War

LD2502184891 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1650 GMT 25 Feb 91

[By TASS legislative correspondent Vladimir Isa-chenkov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Feb (TASS)—The USSR Supreme Soviet's International Affairs Committee stated today that the ground offensive by the troops of the anti-Iraq coalition is taking the conflict "into a new and extremely dangerous phase."

Deputy Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov, speaking on behalf of the committee at the Soviet legislature session, noted that the USSR Supreme Soviet deputies "are not and will not remain indifferent to the deaths of thousands and thousands of civilians and servicemen, and the destruction of towns, villages, and cultural and religious holy places in the region."

The representatives of the legislative committee issued a statement after an appeal by members of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic to the Union legislature and the president was circulated at this morning's session. The statement calls for additional steps to be taken for an immediate end to bloodshed.

Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov stressed that "in the speeches of certain highly-placed Western officials, hints have crept in to the effect that the general aim of the entire coalition today is the destruction and disintegration of the Iraqi arsenal," and not only just the liberation of Kuwait. He reported that Yuliy Vorontsov, the USSR representative of the United Nations, "is conducting active work for the convening of an extraordinary meeting of the UN Security Council, with the aim of a most rapid end to the war; however, because of the position of a number of states, both permanent and nonpermanent members of the Council, he has as yet not been successful."

The representative of the committee expressed regret over the ban on information imposed by the command of the multinational forces "both on destruction and casualties, and on the course of the combat operations itself," and proposed that tomorrow the Supreme Soviet should adopt a decision on the situation in the Persian Gulf when additional information is received on the development of combat action. The legislature agreed with this proposal.

Gorbachev Requests Approval for Cabinet List

LD2502174991 Moscow TASS in English 1701 GMT
25 Feb 91

[By TASS legislative correspondent Vladimir Isa-chenkov]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev requested a parliamentary approval for the nomination of 23 members of the USSR cabinet of ministers. A list of suggested candidacies was circulated at the Soviet parliament session today.

The parliament had set about forming a cabinet of ministers in January this year upon agreeing to the nomination of Valentin Pavlov to the premiership and endorsing four deputy premiers.

Pavlov told the parliament last week that his cabinet would consists of 55 people. The heads of the republican governments are also expected to be included in the cabinet.

The list presented to the parliament today suggests another three candidacies for deputy premiership—Lev Ryabev (who earlier held the post of deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers), Fedor Senko (who is now deputy chairman of the Belorussian Council of Ministers), and Vladimir Shcherbakov (the present chairman of the USSR State Committee for Labour and Social Issues).

It follows of [as received] the president's proposals that the following officials are expected to retain their posts:

Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov, State Security Committee Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov, Vitaliy Konov-
alov as the minister of atomic energy and industry, Grigory Gabrielyants as the minister of geology, Nikolay Gubenko as the minister of culture and tourism, Yuri Volmer as the minister of the merchant marine:

Nikolay Vorontsov as the minister of nature conserva-
tion and environmental protection (he has headed the USSR State Committee for Nature Conservation), Nikolay Konarev as the minister of railways, Vladimir Shimko as the minister of the radio industry, Aleksandr Mikhalechenko as the minister of assembly and special-
ised construction works:

Igor Koksanov as the minister of the shipbuilding
industry, Kondrat Terekh as the minister of trade, Vladimir Brezhnev as the minister of transport construc-
tion, Vladislav Kolesnikov as the minister of the elec-
tronic industry, Yury Semenov as the minister of elec-
trical engineering and electrification, Sergey Lushchikov as the minister of justice, and Vadim Kir-
ichenko as the chairman of the USSR State Committee
for Statistics.

Vladimir Orlov, who has worked as the USSR first
deputy minister of finance, has been suggested for the
post of the minister of finance. Gennady Kudryavtsev is
pegged for the minister of communications (he is cur-
rently the first deputy minister) and Vyacheslav Cherno-
ivanov, who worked as the first deputy chairman of
the Soviet Council of Ministers' State Commission for
Food and Purchases, has been nominated for the post of
the minister of agriculture.

The submitted candidacies will be considered in parliamentary committees and commissions over the coming two days and are expected to be discussed at a joint meeting of the Soviet parliament chambers on Thursday, February 28.

Deputies Question Prime Minister on Cabinet Bill

LD2502182791 Moscow TASS in English 1733 GMT
25 Feb 91

[By TASS legislative correspondent Boris Zverev]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—The Soviet parliament today continued to discuss the bill on the cabinet of ministers. The parliament discussion opened last week and continued in parliamentary committees and commissions. Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov answered questions from legislators on Monday afternoon.

Asked about the attitude of Soviet republics to the bill, the prime minister said that the Federation Council has not yet considered the bill on the cabinet of ministers, its structure, composition and powers. The bill, Pavlov said, was distributed among Federation Council members during its latest meeting but there was not enough time for Council members to study and discuss it.

The prime minister disagreed with the deputies who proposed on the basis of the Soviet Constitution to delete from the bill a list of subjects to which government resolutions and ordinances spread. According to an article in the bill, the cabinet of ministers issues resolutions and ordinances binding on all organs, organizations, officials and citizens on the entire Soviet territory. The prime minister said "we do not contradict the Constitutional formula but somewhat expand it."

Chairman of the parliament's Legislation Committee Yuriy Kalmykov, who spoke on behalf of the parliamentary committees and commissions, noted that the proposed bill was acceptable as the basis for discussion. He then criticized the bill, stressing that it has substantial flaws and pointed out that it could not be promulgated into law before these drawbacks were overcome.

Kalmykov drew the attention of deputies to the fact that the bill granted the cabinet some legislative powers, including the right to adopt temporary resolutions on economic management, which on the whole is within the powers of the Supreme Soviet, or parliament. "We should not vest these powers into the cabinet of ministers," he said.

Another major weakness of the bill, Kalmykov said, was that it envisaged a cumbersome government structure. The bill envisages 48 ministries and departments. Kalmykov said, "almost the same structure we had before".

"We must build a market but we shall never accomplish the task if we mark time," the deputy stressed. He

proposed considering a cut in the number of ministries and departments down to 30 or 35.

Having heard reports from committees and commissions, the parliament [words indistinct] to continue work on the bill at a plenary session on Thursday.

Supreme Soviet Discusses 17 Mar Referendum

LD2502123691 Moscow TASS in English
1224 GMT 25 Feb 91

[By TASS legislative correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—"The March 17 nationwide referendum on the preservation of the Union as a renovated federation of equal and sovereign republics, may prove to be the uniting factor that will help maintain stability and civil peace in our difficult times," chairman of the Central Referendum Commission Vladimir Orlov told the USSR Supreme Soviet today. He delivered a report on preparations for the referendum.

Orlov stressed that the referendum's question concerning the perpetuation of a single union was "of historical importance for the future of our state." "This is why the Central Commission will do everything in its power to make the referendum a really free and responsible expression of the people's will," he said.

Orlov informed parliament that Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldavia, Armenia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia had still not passed any decisions on the referendum. He called for measures to do away with all obstacles, interfering with the people's right to take part in the nationwide poll.

After Orlov's report, many deputies wanted to know what would happen if less than 50 percent of the population voted for the union in this or that republic.

In this case, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Anatoliy Lukyanov explained, "the referendum will not alter the Soviet Constitution" in the part giving every constituent republic the right to secede from the union. "If the majority votes against a single union in this or that republic, a situation will arise when a second referendum will be needed to find out whether the population wants to secede from the union or not, as envisaged by the law on the procedure of a republic's secession from the USSR," Lukyanov said.

Then parliament went over to the discussion of a resolution on preparations for the referendum.

Pugo, Lukyanov on Situation in South Ossetia

LD2502184991 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1716 GMT 25 Feb 91

[By TASS legislative correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Feb (TASS)—“The situation in South Ossetia has not improved. There continues to be a considerable number of illegal armed formations with a large quantity of arms and ammunition at their disposal in the conflict zone.” This was stated by USSR Minister of Internal Affairs Boris Pugo when giving information about the situation in South Ossetia to the Union Supreme Soviet today.

He said that both of the sides that are opposing each other “are actively building up their armaments and increasing their self-defense detachments. Their guerrillas are not putting an end to actions and attacks that are against the law.” According to the minister, six people of Georgian nationality were killed and eight were wounded in various population centers of South Ossetia on 24 February. Thirty individuals of Ossetian nationality and 17 individuals of Georgian nationality have been taken hostage by the sides.

The economic blockade of South Ossetia continues, Boris Pugo said. In his words, “This has brought industrial enterprises to a complete halt, and the work of public health and educational establishments has been paralyzed” in the oblast. “According to a report from the Georgian leadership, electricity supplies have been switched on today, but as a result of many cases of damage to the power transmission lines, electricity is not yet getting through,” Boris Pugo said.

The minister also noted an increase in the number of refugees of both nationalities. By today there were about 4,000 refugees in North Ossetia, over 2,000 of them children.

In all, since the start of the conflict in South Ossetia, 33 people have died, including 14 people of Ossetian nationality and 19 of Georgian nationality, and 145 people have been injured. Boris Pugo reported that 10 of the dead and 32 of the injured are members of the law enforcement bodies. According to Pugo, 329 people have been detained for breaching the curfew; 147 firearms have been confiscated; and 62 crimes are being investigated.

Boris Pugo stressed that the possibilities of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs' Internal Troops “are considerably restricted because the state of emergency regime has been extended for a month only in Tskhinvali.” The point in the USSR Supreme Soviet's 20 February resolution on the situation in the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast and measures to stabilize the situation in the region, which envisioned the state of emergency being extended throughout the territory of South Ossetia, is also not being fulfilled.

Anatoliy Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, who took the floor next said that according to the law an appropriate decision by the Georgian leadership is necessary for the introduction of an emergency situation throughout South Ossetia. “If this question is not resolved tomorrow at the Georgian Supreme Soviet session, the USSR president has the right to introduce an

emergency situation himself. He should inform the USSR Supreme Soviet on this, which should approve the decision by a two-thirds majority of votes,” he said.

Today the deputies decided to confine themselves to discussing a report by Boris Pugo, and tomorrow, if necessary, to return to the issue on the situation in South Ossetia.

Political & Social

Moscow Teachers Stage Warning Strike

LD2502113291 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] There were no classes in many Moscow schools today. The teachers have gone on a warning strike. Their main demands are a public discussion of a draft law on education, a reduction in the number of children in classrooms, and the introduction of a normative financing system. In addition to these demands, the teachers want schoolchildren to have the possibility of visiting museums of the capital once a week, free of charge. The situation of public education in Moscow is really catastrophic. Last November there was a shortage of 3,500 schoolteachers in the city. Most of the school buildings are in a decrepit state. Often there are two to three times more pupils than normal in classrooms. This is why the teachers are under an enormous burden, which is incommensurate with their salary. If the higher organizations do not respond to the teacher's demands, the strike committee will consider further actions.

Salaries To Be Raised

LD2502223791 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 25 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Elonora Sutotskaya]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—A pay rise for teachers is planned in the USSR. The document to this effect will be signed soon, Gennadiy Yagodin, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Public Education, told reporters today. The document will envisage considerable social guarantees for teachers, which until now were insufficient. Teachers' salaries are now much lower than the average pay in the USSR. The pay rise for teachers is to close this gap. The minimal rate of teachers salary will be determined and, Yagodin believes, it should be the same in all the republics. No limits are set on the maximum salaries. This is to be decided by local government bodies and educational establishments.

Low salaries were largely the reason for today's warning strike by Moscow teachers in which collectives of some 40 per cent of Moscow schools took part. Similar strikes have been held earlier in some other cities. By these acts teachers wished to call public attention also to the poor state of affairs in schools, which is aggravated by the crisis phenomena in the country's economy.

Republics Debate Union Treaty Terminology

LD2502210691 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1400 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Work is continuing on the draft Union treaty by the plenipotentiary representatives of the republics. Fierce debate was provoked at today's meeting by what would appear to be a minor issue of terminology: Who is to guarantee the right to self-determination—the peoples or the nations? It goes without saying that how effective the document under discussion will turn out to be, and how far it is capable of halting the centrifugal processes in the country will ultimately depend on the precision and balance with which its articles are formulated. Since there was a division of opinions, the representatives of the republics decided to draft two alternative versions of the document, incorporating the respective terms, for submission to the Federation Council.

23 Feb Rally Considered a Success

PM2502215591 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 26 Feb 91 First Edition p 1

[Feature comprising report by N. Belan and A. Orlov, followed by an appeal adopted by participants in the 23 February Moscow rally under the general heading: "People Demand Unity"]

[Text] What did they not predict for this rally on 23 February in Moscow, in what highly unsavory light did they not try to depict it! They said that it would not receive extensive support from Muscovites and that this was dragging the Army into political games. It was said that it was being held by order, that the military would come armed. Therefore, as the press reported on the day of the rally, the Moscow Soviet subcommission for the defense of citizens' rights delivered an appeal recommending that Muscovites and visitors to the capital refrain from appearing on the streets in the center of Moscow from 1130 through 1600 hours...

The predictions did not come true. The whole square from the "Moscow" Hotel to the Manezh and the streets leading to it were overflowing with people.

At the rally people did not only raise their voices in defense of the "man in uniform" and in favor of resolving the Army's social and everyday problems most speedily. All this was said in general connection with concern for the country's future. The military by no means came to the rally with "departmental" concerns. For instance, the appeal from Moscow Garrison servicemen, read out at the rally by Hero of the Soviet Union Major S. Gushchin, said: People in shoulderboards oppose the disintegration of the Soviet state, they favor unified multinational Armed Forces and unity of the Army and the people, and they intend to say a resolute "yes" 17 March in favor of a renewed Union.

"It is good that so many people attended the rally," USSR Defense Minister Marshal of the Soviet Union D.T. Yazov shared his impressions. "I have already

received information from Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Chita, Novosibirsk, and a number of other cities where large rallies were also held. They confirm the indissoluble unity of the Army and the people. However those people who do not like Soviet power and our choice may rant, this unity cannot be destroyed, it is unshakable..."

We spoke to B.K. Pugo, USSR minister of internal affairs, who also voiced his attitude to the rally:

[Pugo] I think that the very fact that many tens of thousands of people attended this rally shows that the people needed to demonstrate their good feelings toward the Army as their creation, as a force capable of promoting order in our country. I came along to display solidarity with the men of the Army and Navy...

[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA] Before the rally we heard on several occasions that soldiers and militiamen would be herded into the square...

[Pugo] I also heard this said. It was even said on the radio. As for internal affairs organs, many of our personnel expressed a desire to come along. Those who were not on duty were able to come, and I think that this is a good thing.

[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA] That is, the rumors about the command "forward march to the rally"...

[Pugo] Yes, they are slander... [Pugo ends]

We had a brief conversation with USSR KGB Chairman V.A. Kryuchkov. We asked about the mood in which he came here to Manezh Square.

[Kryuchkov] I can, perhaps, speak for myself and for my colleagues within the state security system in saying that we came here with a sense of great alarm and concern for our great motherland, for our Union, and for the fraternity and friendship between our peoples. We hold the Union, friendship, and human ties most dear; they have helped us survive most difficult times. This is now being destroyed before our eyes... We must do everything we can to be together. Look how many people have come along. We have the forces—I say this as a citizen of my country. If we can mobilize and consolidate these forces, I think that we will weather the difficulties and problems of perestroika and go further... There is another important element. We must ensure that a Soviet person in any corner of our country feels that he has equal rights and is completely secure... [Kryuchkov ends]

The same theme was taken up during our discussion with I.K. Polozkov, first secretary of the Russian Communist Party Central Committee.

[Polozkov] I came here with a sense of alarm, with a sense of a kind of inner tension. It stemmed from the fact that—just think—people, labor collectives, and public organizations are forced to come to defend their Soviet Army. How can one fail to be alarmed at this... When I came here, I saw people's faces, I mixed with people, and a sense of joy and festivity arose. The people came to

support the festivities. They stand with the Army, prepared to help it. [end Belan and Orlov report]

The rally's participants adopted an appeal:

Dear Muscovites! Compatriots!

We participants in the Moscow rally were brought here by our alarm for the future of our homeland and for the fate of our nearest and dearest.

The country is really at a dangerous point. Beyond lies accelerating economic collapse, the unquenchable conflagration of interethnic conflict, and the end of the USSR's existence as a major world power.

The time has come for each one of us to make his choice.

We can live in a free and truly democratic, economically powerful country, open to the world—the renewed Soviet Union. And we are capable of ensuring this.

But we can also break up this Union's vital relationships and transform it into a scatter of states whose true political and economic independence no one will guarantee.

So, what do we want?

We appeal to you, the country's working people. You are the foundation of the state. Whether or not there is a national catastrophe depends on your experience, your professional knowledge, and your honest work. Do not allow it.

People's Deputies! You hold real power. The state's integrity and prosperity and tranquillity in every corner of it depend on your responsibility and wisdom. We demand concrete constructive work, we have no need of "parliamentary wars."

We appeal to you, representatives of the creative intelligentsia! Your power lies in your direct influence on people's hearts and minds. That is why it is inadmissible to use this influence to indiscriminately badmouth your native country and fuel social tension in society. Use this strength for good deeds, for the free union of our country's large and small peoples.

Men of the Soviet Army and Navy! You have always symbolized loyalty to the fatherland and precise fulfillment of your oath. Today your wisdom and staunchness in many regions of the country have become the last barrier in the way of extremism and violence. The Army, like the state, can only be unified.

Our dear veterans of war and labor! Your life's path is an example of loyalty to the ideals and best traditions of the Soviet fatherland. Your combat career is the true—unfalsified—history of the Great Victory which brought the peoples freedom from fascism. We all need your support in the difficult work and fight to preserve the unified socialist fatherland.

We appeal to you, comrade president! We expect you to pursue a firm, resolute, and consistent policy to preserve the USSR and strengthen the unity of the Army and people. Be the reliable guarantor of our state system and peace and stability in the country.

Dear Muscovites, dear fellow citizens! Time brooks no delay! A clear position is needed from each one of us along with vigorous efforts to preserve peace and accord in society and ensure a worthy future for our children and grandchildren.

KGB Official on Protecting 'State Secrets'

LD2502213691 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Interview with Yuri Andreyevich Taranenko, an official of the State Security Committee; by correspondent German Sedov, on 25 February, place not given; from the "Vremya" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Sedov] Yuriy Andreyevich, tell us, please, what is your attitude in particular to all these matters?

[Taranenko] The building where I work ensures the protection of information of particularly important rooms. In other words, to put it another way, we are protecting state secrets by preventing the leakage of information via technical channels. We have been engaged in this problem for a long time now, in accordance with the instructions of the USSR Government. We always inform those organizations which we are protecting about our activities. Well, the same thing may be said, in short, so to speak, about room 4-120, which all the fuss was about, and about the apparatus which was set up there, and which some of the media described as bugging apparatus.

[Sedov] But this apparatus was also set up with the knowledge of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Council of Ministers, wasn't it?

[Taranenko] Documents confirm the fact that we are being asked to carry out corresponding work on safeguarding the security of particularly important rooms, both of the Council of Ministers and the Supreme Soviet. Incidentally, it states here: We ask you to continue the work on safeguarding the radiotechnical security of the equipment and property set up in the rooms of the study of the chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

An independent commission of experts made up of highly qualified specialists has been working...

[Sedov, interrupting] On what has been set out in this TASS report.

[Taranenko] Yes, yes, yes. That which is set out in the TASS report. A commission of the RSFSR Council of Ministers was coordinated, and its conclusion is as follows, that our apparatus cannot have been used for eavesdropping, and that this apparatus is designed exclusively for exposing leakages of information.

[Sedov] So, these rooms belong to your department, or what?

[Taranenko] These rooms have been allocated to us by the RSFSR Council of Ministers so we may ensure the protection of these particularly important rooms. Comrades whom we know can find us at any time and they can contact us on the phone.

Poll Taken on Yeltsin Resignation

LD2502235291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2141 GMT 25 Feb 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] The All-Union Center for Public Opinion Research has conducted a poll in 11 cities in Russia, to determine the people's attitude to the resignation of Boris Yeltsin, the demand for which was put forward by a group of deputies in the Russian parliament. Twenty percent favor the resignation of Russia's leader; 46 percent are against his resignation, and the rest didn't take a firm view.

Nevzorov Hits Yeltsin, Hails Army Role

PM2602102191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Feb 91 First Edition p 4

[Interview with "600 Seconds" announcer Aleksandr Glebovich Nevzorov by Colonel V. Streltsov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent; place and date not given: "It Is an Eternal Quality in a Person"]

[Text] He has received thousands of letters and telegrams, and the telephone has not stopped ringing. And there has been endless filming... All this is everyday reality for "600 Seconds" announcer Aleksandr Nevzorov and his comrades in arms. In spite of being busy, Aleksandr Glebovich agreed to answer our KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent's questions.

[Streltsov] Even in the past you could not complain of getting too little attention but now, as far as can be judged, your name is never out of the newspapers and magazines. How can you work in such circumstances?

[Nevzorov] As far as the bitching and the name-calling are concerned.... If I made a collection of all the examples of boorishness and malice and the various stunts pulled against me, I expect that I would secure first place among my colleagues. But at the same time, I have the conviction that a war is being waged not exactly against me or, to be more precise, not only against me as a person. The war is being waged to be on the safe side, to teach us that nobody again should ever publicly take up a particular subject. Because "they" want to have carte blanche. They want to well and truly ram home their fascist slogans which they call "democratic," their very own propaganda, in people's consciousness. I follow all this boorishness very carefully and understand where it all comes from. But I have recently stopped reacting

strongly. You know, Napoleon had a battle which he began unsuccessfully. And from all sides people reported: Such and such a battery is missing, such and such a squadron has been cut off. And he took a psychologically brilliant decision: not to accept reports of losses. And so I say to my boys that it is best simply not to register the majority of the boorishness and dirt aimed against me. I know the disposition of society. I know who reacts to me and in what way, and so I don't want to waste time becoming downhearted. As far as my attitude is concerned, it has been with me, in my opinion, since I was conceived, since I was born... You understand, I am convinced that if we allow "them" to destroy the Union, they will not simply spit on our graves but drive aspen stakes into them. Destroying the Union is a crime which I, just like many other sane people, simply will not bear. This will be a crime before the hundreds, nay the millions of Russians, of the sensible people of Russia who have built our state over a millennium. I cannot imagine how we will be able to look each other in the face. To put it crudely, if there is such a world and we come together in it, how will we be able to look straight at those who cast the fascist banners at the foot of the Mausoleum, who perished at Stalingrad, and at the Kursk Bulge.... What is going on today is treachery and baseness. It has been clear for a long time who finds this to their advantage. There has been no radicalization of my views at all. And the fact that my views coincide at present with those of the central government means nothing either. These views could diverge tomorrow.

[Streltsov] Do you read KRASNAYA ZVEZDA?

[Nevzorov] Rarely, unfortunately. But the military newspapers please me right now. They reflect the situation in the country—KRASNAYA ZVEZDA maybe even more than all the others—in a concentrated manner and objectively, which is important. Most of the mass media have now been taken over by the kind of riffraff who want to "stir things up" [s kashey v borode].

[Streltsov] You are, as they say, rubbing shoulders with the Army now. Have you come to understand it any better?

[Nevzorov] Anyone who follows our program should have noticed that my attitude to the Army has always been one of respect. Even when unprecedented hysteria surrounded the Army after the well-known events in Georgia and Azerbaijan, we were restrained. Because I always knew for certain that the Army belongs to the great traditions of our state. And we are talking specifically about a strong army, with tremendous weight in society. The kind of army which can and should determine policy. I had close and friendly contact with our boys, the airborne troops in Vilnius. I am ready to swear on my mother's grave that they killed no one. That falsehood which has swamped the Union makes my hair stand on end. It is frightful that the people have been successfully tricked and convinced that people were crushed by tanks. I can certainly see that it is very

difficult for the military today. It is terribly difficult to walk about in the view of people infected by hatred, when you are called murderer and scum. But I see that the officers are holding their ground. Of course, the men are in a very grave psychological state. Everything has been done to bring this about. "They" have not given up hope of destroying the Army. But consider what will happen if they succeed. By doing that they will clear the way to secure all positions for themselves and will begin to influence the situation personally. So the people must share a common hope in the steadfastness of officers and men. Therefore my attitude to the Army now is that it is our last great hope. When certain politicians vilify the Army today, it is simply shameful and bad manners.

[Streltsov] What in your view constitutes patriotism?

[Nevzorov] You have to be a patriot for life. This is an eternal quality in a person. Even when I am told that this is an "independent television company" or there goes the "independent Nevzorov." What kind of an independent am I, dammit?! I serve the fatherland, the homeland in exactly the same way as any soldier. I serve with my own understanding of service. And I let my colleagues know in no uncertain terms that our editorial office is more than a news service. We also are a platoon of soldiers serving the homeland.

[Streltsov] Did you consciously or inadvertently fail to reflect the whole strength of the reaction of the Russian speaking population to B.N. Yeltsin's visit to Estonia in your Baltic reports?

[Nevzorov] You know, I really don't understand that man now. He no longer seems to me to be a serious politician. Like everyone else, I was long under the spell of his charm of those days. But, I cannot retain respect for a politician to whom I hear hundreds of thousands of people from the Baltic (and not only from there) saying one word—"traitor." And afterward we did not have sufficient reason to do it. We were dealing with "our own people," and Yeltsin is not one of "ours."

[Streltsov] Now let's talk about your putting yourself at risk. After all, Nevzorov was shot at....

[Nevzorov] I now realize that the person who made the attempt was acting on orders and don't really bear any great grudge against him. The kid came to the television center. He ranted and raved for a long time: "I've shot Nevzorov. Arrest me" etc. Leningrad television workers walked past him... The Prosecutor's Office regrets that it practically had the criminal in its hands. But now....

[Streltsov] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has reported that you are going to the war zone in Iraq. You have an invitation from the Iraqi side. What do you expect from this visit?

[Nevzorov] That's a difficult question for me. I have not been there and cannot imagine what exactly awaits us in Iraq. I am not interested in Iraqi-U.S. political relations. I am not even very much interested in who is in the right and who is the guilty party here. In my opinion, it really

is difficult to get to the bottom of this. And I am not going to try. I am interested in the nature of war... And then there is not sufficiently full information about the events in the Persian Gulf zone. For these reasons I firmly intend to go.

Centrist Bloc Leader Outlines Unity Principles

OW2602085891 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1900 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Interview with Vladimir Vasilyevich Voronin, chairman of the Centrist Bloc of Political Parties and Movements, by correspondent I. Denisov, place and date not given; from the "Utro 120 + 30" program—recorded]

[Text] [Denisov] Recently the first All-Union Conference of the Centrist Bloc of Political Parties and Movements was held in Moscow. To clarify the position of the centrists we met with Vladimir Voronin, chairman of the bloc. Here is what Vladimir Vasilyevich told us.

[Voronin] The aim of the centrists was determined [by the principle that] the center is the pivot of the entire policy, and that is why we support unity of all democratic forces. We are not discriminating against any party, union, or movement if they support the preservation of the territorial integrity of our state, the inviolability of our borders, and if the law is paramount. This is the position of the Centrist Bloc.

However, I also would like to outline our three main political principles. The first political principle—and the citizens of our country may take a look at these principles and then determine their attitude towards the centrist bloc—is human rights for every person. The second principle is to achieve aims at the exclusion of violence, in the framework of the law and the constitution. The third principle is that we tolerate no divisions on the basis of ethnic, social, religious, political, or any other principle. This is the political basis of the Centrist Bloc of Political Parties and Movements.

[Denisov] What methods, specifically, do the centrists plan to use to achieve their aims?

[Voronin] Well, aims primarily will be achieved by parliamentary means. That is the first point. Second, the programs that we determine must be realistic and must be acceptable to the people. Taking into consideration the spectrum of various programs, trends, and the enormous number of parties existing today, we consider that the country can be led out of a crisis only by uniting the efforts of all parties, unions, and movements. We consider that the country will be led out of the crisis by the intellect of the nation. This is our task.

[Denisov] What do you have in mind when you say nation?

[Voronin] Under nation we unequivocally mean our Soviet Union and our territory. For us it is indivisible and it lies within the state frontiers that were bequeathed to us by our fathers and grandfathers. We have no intention of relinquishing even one inch of our border.

[Denisov] You have come out for uniting all democratic forces. Could you please explain what you call democratic forces and who you consider to be destructive elements?

[Voronin] Well, first of all, we consider democratic forces to be those who support our idea, to preserve the integrity of our state, and I reiterate, with inviolable borders, and those who support a rule-of-law state. For instance, we support presidential power in our country. If separate parties, unions, and movements come out for dismembering the union into various territories, into various small principalities, then this is impermissible and we will struggle with these forces. The Centrist Bloc of Political Parties and Movements simply appeals to you to speak out for preserving our union, those territorial frontiers that exist. I think it is impossible to coin a slogan—one that we all need so much—which is more wonderful than unification for our country.

Vladivostok Joint Company Offers Television

OW2602041791 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1900 GMT 21 Feb 91

[From the "Utro 120 + 30" program]

[Text] A joint stock television company, Vostok TV, has been registered in Vladivostok. Its founders are nine major Far Eastern enterprises and public organizations. Residents of the kray will be able to watch the television programs by subscribing to them along the same principle as subscribing for home delivery of a newspaper.

Economic

More on Pavlov's Economic Reform Briefing

PM2602094191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 91 Second Edition pp 1, 3

[Report by A. Nikitin: "Under the 'Wing' of Changes. The USSR Prime Minister Answered Journalists' Questions Yesterday"]

[Text] As I recall, it was only recently, in the fresh January snow, that Soviet and foreign journalists were rushing to the Foreign Ministry Press Center. It was their first meeting with USSR Prime Minister V.S. Pavlov. Now we have its continuation: On the role of the USSR Cabinet of Ministers in economic restructuring.

Yesterday the prime minister's interlocutors were more interested in the details. But what details? Will the USSR State Planning Committee, set up under Lenin, be no more? Can it be, can it be.... So Valentin Sergeyevich

talked about what had prompted the birth of the State Council for Economic Reform. You have to plan not bicycles and tractors, but... interests and consequences. The state will take under its wing 600 strategic "top-level" programs on which the future development of sectors and republics or other regions will actually depend. How will things be managed? On the basis of mutual delegation of functions and interests. Those interests again!

What interests, precisely? Vitaly important ones for the people. Talking about politicization, or rather about misinterpretations of it, V. Pavlov observed:

"The economic crisis must not be used as a weapon of political struggle. In fact, it is necessary to unite to overcome it on the basis of the democratization of the economy, including destatization and privatization of some state property. In short, more economics, less politics. The current USSR Supreme Soviet session will adopt the necessary legal acts, I hope."

One is seeing more and more innovations in the economy or, to be more precise, in its management. Here is one that attracted the attention of Soviet and foreign journalists. Some well-known foreign economists have joined the Kazakhstan Economic Council. How does the prime minister regard this situation?

"I can only welcome it," V. Pavlov replied. "World experience is assimilated more rapidly through contacts than through monographs, which can be behind the times. Extensive consultations are developing in the economic sphere. We in Moscow are also using eminent academics and practical experts for these purposes. But consultations and expert opinion must not be confused with actual management, with participation in decision-making. Just as one cannot blindly transplant foreign economic experience in our soil."

"Can there be no exceptions?"

"They exist already, if one is thinking of joint ventures. Soviet and foreign managers and specialists work there hand in hand. You learn by cooperation."

Cooperation with foreign banks and foreign firms is a complex matter, of course, not something our new breed of entrepreneurs is entirely used to. Here too the truth is sometimes suddenly obscured by all manner of rumors. For example, it is allegedly "known" that it has now been decided to confiscate people's hard currency. What was the prime minister's reaction to this "news" from a television journalist?

"I also... heard it, you know. As for who is going to confiscate it, when, and on what basis, I know nothing about that. Perhaps you could find out for me?..."

But the problem of hard currency transactions has gotten worse. Many state enterprises are trying to keep their foreign earnings from export deliveries in foreign banks rather than bringing them into the country. This is bad for many people, above all Soviet suppliers, who are also

due some hard currency for the parts. It is necessary to keep the hard currency in Soviet banks, except for the part of it that will be used to buy raw materials and machinery. Otherwise the inflationary factor will be intensified. The banks will offer you rubles, but not what you have actually earned abroad.

The following question cropped up during the conversation with the prime minister: It is difficult to travel abroad at the moment, people do not have foreign currency. Sometimes such trips are banned.

"It is not a matter of bans, but of currency," V. Pavlov replied. "In such cases the ruble particularly needs to be convertible."

"How is that to be achieved today?"

"Certainly not by getting rich as a result of different rates on the black market. We need currency auctions. And I am sure we will have them. Then you can buy currency and travel!..."

When the concept of a Cabinet of Ministers was being elaborated, it was obviously desired to give it administrative as well as executive functions: The chance to regulate the market on an ongoing basis, the right to initiate legislation. This, of course, would enable the new management organ to be dynamic and freer in its actions. But there was something that bothered me in the prime minister's report: He asked the USSR Supreme Soviet to allocate him yet another "number," for his new deputy. Any state enterprises or cooperative is now entitled to resolve "problems" like this. So does it mean that the Cabinet does not have any rights, in fact?..

"It is an anachronism, of course," V. Pavlov agreed. "But since it is written in our statutes, I am not entitled to act in any other way."

The prime minister's "memorandum" aroused mixed feelings in me. Respect for the system is fine. But, on the other hand, how do you order people to act in other, emergency circumstances?

The new management organs are not being created in a vacuum, of course. They are being checked out, monitored. New "rules of the game" are being established which, however, can accelerate rather than inhibit the progress of our perestroika in the economy.

A thaw is important not only on Moscow's Sadovyy Ringroad. But all over the country's "economic space."

Prices Committee Chairman Holds News Conference

*PM2602104191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
22 Feb 91 Union Edition p 4*

[Report by I. Demchenko: "V. Senchagov: Prices Will Rise, But That Is Not Terrible"]

[Text] On 19 February V. Senchagov, chairman of the USSR State Committee on Prices, held a news conference in the intermission in the sitting of the Supreme Soviet session. His speech supplemented previously published information about the forthcoming reform.

According to V. Senchagov, the basic difference in the present approach toward the reform is the integration between the policy of price formation and the population's incomes. The compensation which will be paid to the population will with time form an organic part of the wages payment system. "We realized," Vyacheslav Konstantinovich said, "that it is impossible to isolate prices from incomes. The time required for an understanding of that fact has worked not only against the population but also against the departments themselves: The new structure for the government, submitted by the premier for discussion by the deputies, has no State Planning Committee, State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, or State Committee on Prices at all.

V. Senchagov did not deny that the new reform includes the old cost-led mechanism of price formation, at any rate when forming list prices, better known as "state" prices. The main mass of goods is sold at these prices. In addition, so-called "limit" [predelnyye] prices will be set for a number of goods and for a number of other goods—up to 30 percent of the volume of output this year—there will be supply and demand prices, that is free prices.

Answering a question from your IZVESTIYA correspondent about why, with the present rate of inflation, compensation for the population is planned in absolute sums, the chairman of the State Committee on Prices announced that in the future a system of indexing the population's revenue and expenditure will be introduced, making it possible to correlate the size of compensation with the real cost of the consumer shopping basket for various categories. There is already an instruction to prepare this mechanism and we are working on it, V. Senchagov said. Initially compensation is being issued with a reserve which, in the opinion of the reform's authors, should somewhat reduce the psychological shock from the new prices.

But V. Senchagov himself then cited figures describing the level of inflation according to official statistical figures which, as he delicately put it, "have become more accurate." The index of state prices, that is the rate of their growth, last year was 5.3 percent. The overall level of inflation with a consideration for all factors reaches approximately 19 percent. Thus by the end of the year the purchasing power of compensation worth 60 rubles [R] or R65 will be not what it was at the moment it was fixed. Most likely the introduction of compensations will accelerate the pace of inflation.

Unfortunately the reform of retail prices with all ensuing consequences will not make it possible to do away completely with subsidies. For the meat and dairy group, which receives the biggest subsidies, the size of subsidies

will be halved, that is it will remain at the level of R45 billion a year, which is also considerable. Of course, this will ease the pressure on the state budget for a while, but hardly for long, since it is for this group of goods that the cost-led mechanism of price formation will continue to operate.

I should not like to end on a sad note but so far there is only one promising piece of news: The demand for silver articles, which have been sold at free prices since November, has already started to decline in some regions of Central Asia. But so far prices for caviar and crab have not started to fall.

Miners Blame President, Premier for Shortages

PM2602112191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2133 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Report by correspondent G. Kondaurov from Donetsk Oblast, from the "Television News Service" newscast]

[Text] [Kondaurov] Hundreds of different kinds of essential goods—furniture, television sets, pots and pans, and even paint brushes, almost half a million rubles' worth in all—have been lying at Donetsk Oblast depots for the past six weeks. Their marketing is banned by a 4 January Ukrainian Government cable until the new retail prices are fixed. What is the miners' view of this?

[Yu. Boldyrev, from the "Gorkiy" mine] You know, if all a housewife can think of is how not to feed her family in order to be able to feed guests, that reflects on her ability as a housewife. And this is the sort of housewife we have in our country—our president and his new prime minister.

[A. Tupikin, from the "Panfilov" mine] There is no question about it, these goods must be marketed. People are simply at the end of their tether, their nerves and their patience are strained to breaking point. Store shelves are empty, there is talk of price increases everywhere, there is nothing to buy, and meanwhile the depots are chockablock. People simply cannot take any more.

Agricultural

Cars-for-Grain Deals at Moscow Grain Auction

PM2602091991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 91 Union Edition p 1

[A. Belozertsev report: "Grain Auction in Moscow"]

[Text] The USSR State Commission for Food and Purchases held a grain auction 14 February, to which representatives of a number of farms from Kazakhstan, Rostov and Orenburg Oblasts, and Stavropol Kray were invited. This time it was not money that was used in payment for the grain. An economically accountable subunit of the USSR Gosnab [State Committee for

Material and Technical Supply] Agrosnab [precise expansion unknown] put "Volga," "UAZ," and "Niva" vehicles into the auction.

These barter deals could probably be seen as one of the first tentative attempts to activate the grain market in the USSR. It is no secret that a crisis situation has emerged following the 1990 harvest. Farms, realizing that grain sold to the state does not guarantee reciprocal sales of industrial output, are in no hurry to take it to grain reception centers, and are using it purely for livestock feed and as payment in kind for their own workers. Moreover, grain has become a kind of domestic hard currency in direct barter deals this year.

This season grain reception centers have registered a shortfall of 15 million tonnes of grain. This has led to disruption at many grain processing enterprises and has forced them to hastily resort to wasteful imports of larger amounts of produce than ever.

Despite the small amount of grain sold at auction—slightly more than 11,000 tonnes—this form of sale is slowly but surely bringing closer the day when an exchange mechanism of trade is set up in the agro-industrial complex as one of the elements of a market infrastructure.

Specialists from the State Commission for Food and Purchases believe that such barter auctions should be held regularly and be extended to other kinds of output—meat, cotton, and wool, for instance. On the other hand, the goods presented for trade should include not just cars—which are primarily used by farm leaders for representation purposes—but also highly productive, mainly imported, agricultural equipment and scarce construction materials.

Statistics Chief on Farming Outlook

PM2202142391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Feb 91 Second Edition p 1

[Interview with L.I. Vashchukov, chief of the Agro-Industrial Complex Statistics Administration of the USSR State Committee for Statistics, by I. Totskiy; place and date not given: "In the Spring They Will Start Shouting 'Help!' Food Opportunities: Prognosis for Tomorrow"]

[Text] A blizzard is blowing over the fields, and anxious notes are being heard increasingly frequently in readers' letters: Are farmers ready for field work? Letter writers also rebuke the editorial board. Thus, A. Shubkin of Altay Kray is perplexed: "Why do you write little or, rather, simply keep quiet about the way the preparations for sowing are going on kolkhozes [collective farms] and sovkhozes [state farms]? Or are you waiting for spring to knock at the window? Today people on many farms are displaying Olympian calm, but in the spring, when the weather introduces amendments to the plans, they will start shouting 'Help!'"

The editorial board asked L.I. Vashchukov, chief of the Agro-Industrial Complex Statistics Administration of the USSR State Committee for Statistics, to describe how farmers are preparing to go out into the fields.

"The anxiety aired in A. Shubkin's letter is perfectly valid," L. Vashchukov remarked. "Although it is not fashionable today to refer to the vagaries of the weather, we must not disregard them either. And this is why. The slush last fall combined with mismanagement and lack of organization prevented farmers from carrying out fall plowing on 20 million hectares. More than 4 million hectares remained unsown to winter crops. Plus the possible resowing of winter crops that have died. So you can judge by how much the volume of spring work will increase."

[Totskiy] There will be a need for more equipment, seeds, fuel...

[Vashchukov] Undoubtedly. We would appear to have a lot of equipment. There are 2,543,000 tractors alone. At the same time farm leaders say that this is not enough. Let us investigate. In the United States, for example, there are 30 hectares of arable land per tractor, in Italy seven hectares, in France 12, in Czechoslovakia 33, and in our country 82. It turns out that the kolkhoz and sovkhoz leaders are right. Under these conditions every tractor is particularly valuable. Alas, on far from all farms. On certain farms the machines stand under a fence for years, and no one is concerned about this. Moreover, not every tractor has a master. Whereas there are, on average, 115 machine operators for every 100 tractors in the country, in Georgia there are 88, in Latvia 85, in Armenia 77, and in Estonia 75.

The machine builders are in debt to the farmers. Not content with sharply increasing the prices of agricultural equipment, they have at the same time reduced deliveries. Last year, for example, the countryside had a shortfall to the tune of 9,000 tractors and many plows, cultivators, and harrows. And the quality of the machines delivered to kolkhozes and sovkhozes also gives rise to serious complaints, complicates their repair, literally devours scarce spare parts...

[Totskiy] Readers' letters, incidentally, contain very many complaints that the scarcity of spare assemblies and components is slowing up the progress of repairs.

[Vashchukov] True. But, in my view, this is not the only reason. There was the slow start made by repair workers in the fall and winter, the shortage of workshop personnel, and bad labor organization. Engineering service leaders should not shift their guilt and their miscalculations onto other people's shoulders. The result is evident: Far fewer machines have been gotten ready to go into the fields than was the case a year ago. This lag is particularly noticeable in Moldova, the Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan. Precisely those republics that are the first to begin spring sowing. Hundreds of

thousands of plows, cultivators, seed drills, and trucks are still defective. It seems to me that it is time to sound the alarm in this regard.

[Totskiy] What about fuel? Will we really not do away with a shameful tradition: It is time for machine operators to sow, but the machines stand with empty tanks?

[Vashchukov] This problem has not just arisen today. It has been unresolved for years. It is probably out of reach of the State Planning Committee and the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply. But they doom the peasants to torment and pain as they watch crops that are so hard to grow simply wither and die.

To be fair, I will point out that farms are somewhat better supplied with fuel now. Some 366,000 tonnes more diesel fuel and 172,000 tonnes more gasoline have been brought in than a year ago. But it should not be forgotten that the increased volume of field work will also require the additional expenditure of approximately 140,000-160,000 tonnes of fuel. It must reach the oil bases by the beginning of spring.

[Totskiy] Leonid Ivanovich, in previous years many farms frequently slipped up over seeds. It is necessary to sow them, but they have not yet been tested for germination and weed content, or else the granaries are quite empty...

[Vashchukov] Last fall certain kolkhozes and sovkhozes held back grain, were in no hurry to send it off to the state granaries, and have still been left without seeds. There is a particularly great seed shortage in Armenia, Kirghizia, and Tajikistan. What is to be sown? Where is the way out to be sought? This is suggested by the experience of progressive farms. They are actively preparing seeds and conducting interfarm and interrayon exchanges. But people in some places still pin their hopes on state granaries. This is why a large quantity of seeds has still not been brought up to sowing condition. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes are short of 1.8 million tonnes of seed potatoes. Everyone remembers the bad weather when they were being harvested. And maybe it is worth pondering right now on where and from whom to purchase seed tubers.

Those who do not lull themselves today and wait for manna from heaven but works with redoubled energy will be none the worse off for it. The spring and the harvest will call the rest strictly to account.

Scientific

Siberian Scientific Institutions Expanded

PM2102142791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
19 Feb 91 Union Edition p 1

[IZVESTIYA correspondent A. Illarionov report: "Siberia: The Steps of Science"]

[Text] The Siberian branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences is setting up an Institute of Information Technology and Applied Mathematics, an Institute of High-Energy Technology and Mechanical Engineering, an Institute of Sensor Microelectronics, laboratories, and departments of humanities institutes in Omsk.

In order to coordinate the development of the material base of academy work in Omsk the USSR Academy of Sciences Siberian Branch Presidium has approved the membership of the Omsk Scientific Center Presidium. To unite the efforts of academy and higher educational establishment science and to target the training of research staff, it has been decided to set up a so-called "Omsk Scientific and Educational Park" here, which will operate on the base of the rich experience of cooperation of Novosibirsk University and the USSR Academy of Sciences Siberian Branch, IZVESTIYA correspondent A. Illarionov reports.

Military

Moiseyev Interviewed on Current Issues

PM2502153391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 23 Feb 91 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Army General M.A. Moiseyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, by correspondent Major Yu. Rubtsov; place and date not given: "Unified Armed Forces For a Unified State"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Rubtsov] Military reform. It affects hundreds of thousands of servicemen, members of their families, defense industry personnel, and pre-draft young people. At what stage, Comrade Army General, is the reform today? What are the General Staff's immediate tasks in this connection?

[Moiseyev] Military reform does not constitute some kind of one-shot act. The intention is to implement it in several stages. People are now writing and talking about it in a fairly detailed manner. To try to sum up some results, a considerable amount has been done since 1987 when our country adopted a new defensive doctrine, including the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, the unilateral reduction of 500,000 members of our Armed Forces, the conclusion and implementation of the Treaty on Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, and our troops' withdrawal from East Europe and Mongolia.

Now within the framework of military reform the General Staff has to resolve complex tasks in terms of clarifying the composition and setting up a fundamentally new defensive grouping of troops within the USSR's borders, giving the Armed Forces a new complexion, and boosting the combat and mobilization readiness of troops, staffs, and control organs. In short, a whole range of questions linked with withdrawing our troops from

East Europe, providing them with amenities and accommodation, fulfilling our Paris Treaty commitments, and resolving social questions.

A wide range of problems are linked with the formulation of proposals relating to the talks currently under way in Geneva and Vienna. This involves painstaking, responsible work. We must display tremendous persistence and initiative in upholding our interests at all levels. A statesmanlike approach, knowledge of legal questions, and consideration of the country's security interests are absolutely essential here.

I want to focus readers' attention on a new task facing the General Staff—the elaboration of a mechanism for cooperation with the committees for defense and security which are being set up in the republics. It is important to eschew haste and ill-considered decisions here and clearly define what comes within the competence of the center and the republics respectively.

As for creating republic armies, I want to stress that there should be unified armed forces within our unified state, well-trained, with modern equipment, constantly ready to defend the motherland against any outside encroachments.

[Rubtsov] It is well-known that, in addition to combat training, the Armed Forces also resolve economic tasks. I think that readers would be interested to find out what is being done in this context.

[Moiseyev] Quite a lot has been done. See for yourself. In 1990 Defense Ministry construction workers constructed and commissioned a total of 3.3 million square meters of housing. That represents a total of 66,000 apartments. In the last five years a total of 16.2 square million meters of apartment blocks and hostels have been built. In addition, thousands of social and cultural consumer facilities have been erected. Military construction workers are also constructing new settlements for Bryansk Oblast inhabitants who suffered as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station]. They are also involved in putting up certain other installations.

Some 21 highway construction teams and eight Defense Ministry repair and restoration battalions are building roads in the Nonchernozem Zone. In the last three years military road builders have commissioned 1,600km of highways, along with 12 bridges and hundreds of water conduit installations.

Every year the Army takes part in bringing in and shipping out the harvest. Last year alone the Defense Ministry sent 94 motor transport battalions, 46,600 automobiles, and 60,000 men to bring in the harvest: They shipped out 30.5 million tonnes of agricultural freight. Who but soldiers are the first to rush to the population's aid in time of earthquake, flood, fire, and other natural disasters. This was the case in Chernobyl, Armenia, Tajikistan, and Bashkiria, and in other parts of our vast country. Is that not real evidence that the Army and the people are inseparable!

[Rubtsov] Comrade Army General! Many readers are interested in the General Staff's assessment of the development of the Persian Gulf war.

[Moiseyev] I would like to point out right away that we set up an operations group when war broke out. Its task is to gather, generalize, and assess the information received.

We are attentively keeping an eye on the nature of the new arms and equipment being used, the forms and methods of preparing and waging contemporary air-ground and amphibious assault operations, the control and communications system, and questions of all-around support. The Persian Gulf region has, to all intents and purposes, become a kind of testing ground for state-of-the-art hardware and arms which are or will in the near future be standard equipment for the NATO bloc's combined armed forces. We must keep this in view.

I must point out that some trends have emerged toward reaching a political settlement of the conflict and putting a stop to hostilities. The measures that the Soviet Union has proposed to bring an end to the war have been received with hope throughout the world. The results of the second meeting between M.S. Gorbachev and Foreign Minister T. 'Aziz 21 February could represent the beginning of a reconciliation.

The main thing now is to take all steps to bring the conflict to an end, prevent its spilling over beyond the region, and especially to prevent the use of mass destruction weapons.

In conclusion I would like to congratulate all Soviet people, Army and Navy soldiers, and veterans on our national holiday and wish them good health, prosperity, and peace.

Moiseyev Rules Out Local Soviet for Island

*PM2502142991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
15 Feb 91 Union Edition p 2*

["Direct Line" report by correspondent Ivan Bentsa: "Will There Be a Soviet on Novaya Zemlya?"]

[Text] Arkhangelsk—The Defense Ministry has not backed a decision by the Arkhangelsk Oblast Soviet on the advisability of creating an island soviet on the Novaya Zemlya archipelago.

The letter, signed by Chief of General Staff M. Moiseyev, says that the decision does not conform to point 3 of the USSR Supreme Soviet resolution "On the Situation Prevailing in Connection With the 24 October 1990 Underground Nuclear Explosion on Novaya Zemlya." The aforementioned point is concerned not with the creation of organs of power on the archipelago, but only with the consideration of all aspects connected with their absence. The creation of an island soviet in a military structure, the reply says, would bring with it a mass of

unnecessary complications in the relationship between organs of soviet power and the garrison leadership.

"It is a purely departmental viewpoint that does not consider all the realities connected with the activities of the test site," Oblast Soviet Chairman Yu. Guskov believes. "We based our decision on the fact that there are several thousand civilians working on Novaya Zemlya whose interests would be protected by a soviet. Public opinion is in favor of its creation and we will try to bring this about."

Shlyaga Speech to WGF Regiment Reported

*PM2602107291 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 22 Feb 91 First Edition pp 1, 2*

[Major S. Popov report: "Activeness of Thought and Action"]

[Text] At a party meeting in a Western Group of Forces [WGF] tank regiment there was a businesslike and constructive discussion of the party's future, its creative role in the complex political and socioeconomic situation in the country, and the priority tasks requiring immediate efforts by Communists.

Major I. Safargaleyev, secretary of the party committee, and other Communists devoted special attention to measures to further enhance the vanguard role of CPSU members in all spheres of the life of the military collective and to educate party members in the spirit of high morality, principledness, and responsibility in words and deeds.

As already reported in our newspaper, Colonel General N.I. Shlyaga, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, participated in the work of the regimental meeting.

The report and election campaign, Col. Gen. N.I. Shlyaga said, is taking place at a time when a task of exceptional importance is being resolved in the Armed Forces—that of transforming political organs, creating independent party structures, and fundamentally renewing their functions and the forms and methods of their practical activity.

This is taking place against a complex internal political and international background. On the one hand, perestroika in the country has encountered open resistance from antisocialist and nationalist forces which pursue the aim of eliminating Soviet power and wrecking the USSR. Crisis phenomena in the economy have become extremely acute, and crime is growing. The unbridled slander campaign against the CPSU and the Armed Forces is continuing. On the other hand, events in the Persian Gulf zone show that international security is not guaranteed.

In this situation, Col. Gen. N.I. Shlyaga emphasized, the healthy forces in society expect the party and every Communist to take consolidating steps and to set an

example in overcoming organizational and ideological sluggishness. They expect clear-cut ideological positions and purposeful practical actions.

Complex tasks also face Communists in the Western Group of Forces on this plane. Since last October, as is known, it has been functioning on the territory of the united Germany, alongside NATO troops, and it has been faced with specific problems never before encountered in the history of Soviet military building.

Chief among these, the speaker pointed out, is the problem of maintaining the high morale and political well-being of people who are living and serving in the conditions of a nonsocialist environment. It is necessary to face up to the truth: There has been an increase in the numbers of those who are disappointed in their profession as regular soldiers, who have become less active in educating and training subordinates, and who display apathy and passivity in their service. A certain section of officers, ensigns, and members of their families has been infected by the virus of materialism and acquisitiveness. Phenomena like desertion and downright betrayal of the motherland have appeared.

Naturally, it is necessary to strengthen the personnel's morale and morality through the Communist's personal example above all, by fostering endurance, organization, and discipline in every party member in this complex situation.

Speaking about this, Col. Gen. N.I. Shlyaga dwelt on life in the regiment. There are 156 CPSU members here. The bulk of them are officers. This is a large party force. And if this force really gets down to work, the tasks set before the regiment will be resolved to the proper standard. Just as in any other large unit, district, or group of forces. The party's prestige cannot be enhanced in any other way today, and people cannot be mobilized for active work.

The next fundamental question is that of improving the activities of party organizations as a whole. Many people now would like to divert the party from active political resistance to opposition forces. To involve it in resolving their own internal problems, so as to muffle its political voice in society, where its positions remain strong and its prestige has recently begun to increase.

This is convincingly confirmed by the fact that the number of people joining the party in the Armed Forces is considerably greater than the number of people who have left its ranks. And adventurers of every hue cannot be allowed to take advantage of the complexity of the present situation and take the initiative. For this it is necessary to concentrate on vitally important questions, to define effective means of influencing the whole process of the personnel's service, to carry out lively work with people, and to be attentive toward the concerns and needs of every serviceman, worker, and employee in the Soviet Army. In other words, it is necessary to be able to listen to and hear people.

In the search for ways to improve ideological influence, it was emphasized at the meeting, certain political workers and party aktiv members have gotten carried away by complex pseudoscientific elaborations and substantiations. And yet it was precisely pseudoscience that ruined our ideological work during the stagnation times. Of course, scientific approaches to everything connected with a person's education are necessary, but at the same time we must not lose what lies at the very basis of ideological work in general—informing people about the events taking place around them and maintaining normal political contacts with subordinates and fellow servicemen.

I will share some personal impressions, Col. Gen. N.I. Shlyaga went on. Since I was appointed to the post of chief of the Main Political Directorate I have had to meet with servicemen frequently. I will state frankly that at times one is simply amazed at the leaders whose subordinates are unaware of the elementary issues connected with the military reform, of the state's measures for servicemen's social and legal protection, and of the improvement of their material position. In some places we observe frank indifference to the organization of the ideological struggle against anti-Army actions. This cannot be tolerated. Party organizations at all levels are called upon to define their specific position and to step up ideological and propaganda work so that it becomes continuous and embraces all servicemen, members of their families, and workers and employees without exception.

Col. Gen. N.I. Shlyaga dwelt on urgent questions that are being brought to the center of Communists' ideological work for the immediate future. They include, above all, those connected with preparing personnel to participate in the referendum on the future of the USSR. Everything possible must be done here to ensure that, when people go to the polling place, they understand the fateful significance of the moment and are fully aware of the pernicious and antipopular nature of actions aimed at breaking up the USSR.

An elucidation of decisions by the top organs of state power and management aimed at stabilizing political and economic life in the country and strengthening legality and law and order also demands equal attention. Active work on maintaining a healthy moral and political climate, vigilance, and discipline among servicemen, workers, and employees is also extremely important for Communists in the Western Group of Forces. For this it is necessary to set in motion all forces and means and to involve the party's entire potential.

The chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate emphasized that the holding of the All-Army Party Conference at the end of March will complete the creation of military-political organs with the functions of state-constitutional organs and independent party structures, up to the All-Army Party Committee inclusive. Does this mean that the link between them might be broken? I believe that many people will agree that both

military-political organs and party committees are created for the sake of work with people and so must develop together and implement the science of the study of man. The artificial disruption of businesslike relations between these structures would make us resemble the heroes of Krylov's well-known fable. And unity is needed more than ever today.

In conclusion Col. Gen. N.I. Shlyaga expressed confidence that the regiment's Communists will cope with the tasks facing them and will continue to serve the socialist motherland honestly and selflessly.

Organizational questions connected with the activity of the regiment's party organization for the immediate future were also examined at the meeting.

Shlyaga on Army's Political Organizations

LD2402144891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 0743 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Interview with N.I. Shlyaga, head of the main military-political directorate of the USSR Armed Forces, by unidentified interviewer, at the USSR Ministry of Defense; date not given; from the 'Radar' program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Shlyaga] As you know, the country's president has decided to reorganize the political organs and military-political structures. I consider that the military-political organs being established are fundamentally new bodies, bodies that will implement state policies in the areas of our country's defense and security. The new military-political organs are becoming a part of the structure of the military administration bodies. In the vertical plane they will have their own hierarchy, with, in effect, a single line of subordination rising from the grass roots to the top level, just like the organs of military administration as a whole.

If you ask me to single out specific issues, I would say first and foremost that one of our priority concerns will be the question of providing social and legal protection for our servicemen. It is customary for comrades to say that it is not enough to make a commitment. The most important thing is to back this up with manpower and resources. I believe that, together with the military administration organs, we will work to ensure that legislation providing social and legal protection for servicemen is strictly implemented. Members of military-political organs are now taking an active part in the drafting, the preparation of legislation, such as the law on universal military service and the law on the status of servicemen, which will deal with these questions. These laws will be examined by the Supreme Soviet. Subsequently, in the organs, we will be monitoring their implementation. I would even go so far as to talk about social justice for servicemen and members of their families in the regions.

The second set of issues concerns functions like the implementation of state policies on our country's

defense and security. I believe that our main function will be to see that they are implemented by explaining them to all categories of our servicemen. Our second task will be to provide political backing for the task of maintaining the army and navy in a state of readiness for combat and mobilization, and to draw up and implement measures to strengthen military discipline and prevent violations of the law by military personnel. Taking this question further, our job will be to take part in preparing citizens for military service, in implementing youth policy in our armed forces, in implementing personnel policies in the armed forces, and a number of other things.

I believe that the mechanism for this has been drawn up. It will be implemented.

Chemical Troops Adjusting to Peacetime Tasks

PM2602104991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 0330 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Report by V. Chistyakov from the Kostroma Chemical Defense Higher Military Command School; from the "Utro 120 + 30" program]

[Text] [Chistyakov] During the 25 years of the Kostroma Chemical Defense Higher Military Command School's existence many officers have graduated from here, trained for one purpose—operating in combat conditions. The training programs, teaching aids, and practical exercises were in line with this objective.

Now, in the year of its first jubilee, the school is undergoing a rebirth. Lessons are more like research work in a chemical laboratory, the potential of modern equipment is used for different purposes, and teaching staff use words like "military threat" and "readiness to rebuff an attack" more and more rarely.

[V.I. Buktovarov, chief of USSR Ministry of Defense Chemical Defense Troops Combat Training] In wartime chemical defense troops provide chemical backup for combat operations. However, experience gained from the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident, and also in the elimination of accidents involving toxic substances on railroads and at industrial enterprises, has shown that even in peacetime chemical defense troops have important and difficult tasks to carry out in eliminating the consequences of various accidents.

[Chistyakov] Is it in this connection that a reorientation of chemical defense troops, or more precisely of chemical defense schools, is taking place?

[Bukhtovarov] Correct. Proceeding from this experience, schools are changing to new combat training plans and programs as from 1991/1992. These programs incorporate ecological and environmental protection issues. There will be many jobs for our chemical expert graduates in the national economy in peacetime too.

[Chistyakov] The new generations of graduates will be different from their predecessors; however, combat spirit and tempering will remain high on their agenda. After all, they often have to operate in extreme conditions. A comprehensive technical safety system is currently being set up in the country. Its efficiency and reliability, and consequently also our lives and our health, will depend on graduates from the Kostroma and other chemical defense schools.

General Makashov Files Defamation Suit

PM1502152491 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 15 Feb 91 First Edition p 3

[Correspondent Lieutenant Colonel O. Bedula report from Samara under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Commander Files Suit"]

[Text] A complaint seeking the protection of honor and dignity has been filed by USSR People's Deputy Colonel General A. Makashov at the people's court in Samara City's Promyshlennyy Rayon. Samara Oblast Soviet Deputy V. Karlov is named as defendant.

I met with Col. Gen. A. Makashov and asked him about the factors that drove him to take this unusual step.

"Let me begin by telling you that at a recent meeting with voters Citizen Karlov called me 'mister' and charged me with nothing less than Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. And so it went on. All at once I learned that I had supposedly been an 'instructor in Baghdad,' and that

an alternative version of the invasion operation had been drawn up under my leadership. And therefore, in Karlov's view, the general cannot wash his hands of the Kuwaiti people's blood.

"Before that, Karlov had accused me of stubbornly refusing to allow my subordinates to subscribe to a number of 'left-wing' publications. Apparently to sum up all my 'sins,' the oblast soviet deputy told his voters: 'There is no room for criminals like Tarasov and Makashov on Samara's soil.' Here, as you can see, the chief of the military district's political directorate also found himself a 'criminal,' to his surprise.

"Of course, all these emotional attacks could be ignored, since Citizen Karlov is out of touch with the facts of life and elementary logic. But I have recently received a good many letters, telegrams, and questions from voters literally demanding that I, as a USSR people's deputy, defend my honor, which, people say, means the army's honor too. And I myself believe it is time to put a stop to the rumors and conjectures."

Let me add to these words of Albert Mikhaylovich's that the commander is asking the court to instruct Valeriy Aleksandrovich Karlov to refute the untrue reports and apologize in writing.

The situation is given piquancy by the fact that Karlov is a member of the oblast soviet deputies' standing commission on socialist legality, law and order, and social justice...

Baltic Republics

Lithuania To Repeal Soviet Laws 11 March

LD2502202691 Berlin ADN in German 1946 GMT
25 Feb 91

[Text] Moscow (ADN)—In light of the Union referendum, which has been announced for 17 March, the Presidium of the Supreme Council and the government of Lithuania intend to repeal Soviet laws as of 11 March. It emerges from a statement from the two bodies, quoted by the BALTFAX Agency, that the pressure on Lithuania aimed at forcing its inhabitants to take part in the referendum, is seen as "interference in the republic's internal affairs and a renewed attack on its sovereignty." The statement also declares the willingness to duly accede to the request of the Soviet Government and the governments of sovereign union republics "to afford help in previously agreed areas in organizing the voting for citizens of the USSR who live in Lithuania or who are staying there temporarily."

Lithuania Considers Request for Soviets To Vote

LD2502233591 Vilnius International Service
in English 2230 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The Presidium of the Lithuanian parliament and the government have issued a joint statement concerning the referendum organized in the Soviet Union in the middle of next month. The statement says that the Lithuanian Government respects the universally recognized principles of the existence of the (?world state community) and could therefore raise no objections to holding the referendum among the Soviet citizens residing in Lithuania. The Republic of Lithuania could find it possible to discuss and give a solution to the request of the government of the Soviet Union and of its sovereign constituent republics concerning permission for and assistance to their authorized consular representatives in organizing such a referendum at places previously agreed upon and among Soviet citizens permanently or temporarily living in Lithuania and having expressed their free will to go to the polls, the statement (?says).

As is known, at the beginning of February over three quarters of eligible citizens of Lithuania said "yes" to a Lithuania as an independent democratic republic. It is obvious that the Moscow-initiated referendum will be held in Soviet military bases stationed in Lithuania, but the Kremlin-guided anti-independence forces have not yet openly said they will make attempt at holding the referendum. The outcome of the Lithuanian independence plebiscite suggests that Moscow loyalists can expect better results only in a couple of rural districts in southeastern Lithuania.

Lithuania Bans Republic Communist Party Press

LD2502212191 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1850 GMT 25 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Serafim Bykhun]

[Text] Vilnius, 25 Feb (TASS)—The validity of the registration certificates of republican, city, and rayon newspapers of the Communist Party was suspended in Lithuania today. This was done in accordance with an order issued on 22 February of this year by Viktoras Baublys, head of the directorate for the control of the press under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Lithuanian Republic. Under the "Law on Political Parties" which was adopted by Lithuania's Supreme Soviet in September 1990, the Communist Party of Lithuania is regarded as an "organization of another state" and does not have the right to engage in activity in Lithuania, including issuing press publications. Official notification of the suspension of the validity of the registration certificates was received by the editors of five newspapers published by the Communist Party of Lithuania in various towns in the republic.

Lithuania Adds 4 to Delegation for USSR Talks

PM2502150191 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian
8 Feb 91 p 1

[Resolution signed by V. Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet, in Vilnius on 5 February: "Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet Resolution: On Adding to the Composition of the Lithuanian Republic's State Delegation for Interstate Talks with the USSR"]

[Text] The Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. To augment the composition of the Lithuanian Republic's state delegation for interstate talks with the USSR by adding the following members:

Gediminas Vagnorius, premier of the Lithuanian Republic;

Audrys Butkyavichyus, general director of the Lithuanian Republic's Territorial Protection Department;

Kyastutis Glavyatskas, Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet deputy;

Valdemaras Katkus, Lithuanian Republic deputy foreign minister.

2. To relieve Kazimiera Prunskiene, Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet deputy, from membership of the state delegation for interstate talks with the USSR.

3. To instruct the state delegation for talks with the USSR to maintain its adherence to the political provisions endorsed by the Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet resolutions No. 1-351 of 5 July 1990 and No. 1-900 of 28 December 1990.

[Signed] V. Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet
Vilnius, 5 February 1991

Lithuanian Representative Previews Moscow Talks

LD2602115791 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian
0940 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] [Announcer] It was announced this morning that Ceslovas Stankevicius, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, is leaving for Moscow this afternoon.

Esteemed Stankevicius is at our radio microphone and we asked him to inform our listeners, the people of Lithuania, about the objectives of his trip.

[Stankevicius] We have several objectives and goals for this trip. One of these is to meet Vitaliy Doguzhiyev, leader of the delegation set up by the USSR president and deputy prime minister of the USSR. This meeting should take place on our initiative. This meeting has already been agreed to on principle, however, the time of the meeting has not yet been decided. It can be expected that such a meeting will take place tomorrow afternoon, or the day after tomorrow in the morning.

What are we trying to achieve? The esteemed radio listeners already know the USSR delegation was set up. Nothing was said, however, about what the plans of the delegation were, what its proposals to the Republic of Lithuania were, how they envisaged the possibilities for negotiations and—most importantly—if this is going to be the continuation of the previous negotiations and consultations, and whether all the results which had been achieved—at least the procedural ones, the ones which set up the structures for negotiations, and which had been recorded in the previous protocols—will be used.

We would also like to clarify under what circumstances the USSR representatives think it would be possible for the delegations to meet and to discuss the pressing issues.

A contact of this nature could help to clarify the situation and to assess the possibility for negotiations because, in spite of this all, we bear in mind that rather unfavorable preconditions for the negotiations were created: unlawfully occupied buildings of the Republic of Lithuania which continue to be in the hands of the military and we do not see any signs or indications that any attempts are being made by the servicemen to vacate these buildings.

We do not think that under such conditions, under conditions of using force, the negotiations could be held.

[Announcer] I would also like to remind the listeners that one of the documents adopted by the Supreme Council states that one of the indispensable conditions for the negotiations is that the army be withdrawn from the occupied buildings. Do you think you will talk about this during your meeting?

[Stankevicius] We did not set this condition. This condition was set by the USSR side, we would only like to know if they are prepared to remove this condition in the nearest future. [passage indistinct] We did not receive any answer to our written inquiry—perhaps we would manage to clarify this during our meeting.

Soyuz Deputies To Meet Lithuanian Voters

PM2202142191 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 15 Feb 91 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "'Soyuz' Deputies in Vilnius"]

[Text] Vilnius—In connection with the refusal by USSR people's deputies in Lithuania to perform their duties, the "Soyuz" deputies' group has adopted a decision to receive citizens in their offices in Vilnius and other cities and rayons in the republic, according to a report by People's Deputy N. Feskov, a TASS correspondent who is in Lithuania with the "Soyuz" group. The following USSR people's deputies are taking part in receiving Lithuanian citizens: G. Kadyrov, V. Gorbatko, and A. Korenev. "Apart from receiving citizens, we are also planning meetings in labor collectives," N. Feskov said.

Landsbergis Assails Shenin 'Blackmail'

LD2002224691 Vilnius International Service
in English 2300 GMT 19 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Mr. (Mervyn Meadow), Canadian Consul and plenipotentiary minister of Moscow, has arrived in Lithuania on a 10-day visit. The honorable Canadian guest was received today by head of parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis, who acquainted him with the political situation in the country as well as with the efforts of the Republic of Lithuania to begin negotiations with the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

The Soviet Union's Communist Party and its branch in Lithuania press on with their efforts to destabilize the situation here. A top-level party official member of the Politburo, Oleg Shenin, arrived in Vilnius and on Sunday he openly urged his Lithuanian fellow members of the party to get armed, form armed units in localities, and invite groups that support it from Russia and other republics of the Soviet Union. Secretary Oleg Shenin was addressing a consultative meeting of pro-Union communists in Lithuania, and both he and the local communists threatened unambiguously that in case Lithuania seceded from the Soviet Union the districts of Vilnius and Klaipeda would be severed from Lithuania.

Chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament Vytautas Landsbergis defined this call to get armed as blackmail without any political basis.

Lithuania Nominates New Ministers

LD2102215891 Moscow TASS in English 2122 GMT
21 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius February 22 TASS—Lithuanian Prime Minister Gedimanas Vagnorius on Thursday proposed appointing a minister for talks with the Soviet Union.

Vagnorius nominated member of the Lithuanian parliament Aleskandras Abisalas to the new post. Abisalas, 35, has been parliament speaker. He is a coordinator of the Lithuanian state delegation formed by the republican parliament for talks with the Soviet Union.

The prime minister also nominated new ministers of agriculture and finance. He proposed merging the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Materials Resources.

On Thursday, the prime minister's proposals were discussed by commissions and factions. They are expected to be approved at the plenary parliament session on Friday.

On Thursday, the republican parliament began adopting the bill on primary privatisation of the state property article by article.

Officials Discuss Lithuanian Proposal to USSR

LD2002231291

[Editorial Report] Vilnius International Service in Lithuania at 0100 GMT on 20 February carries a 5-minute report in which radio journalists Roma Pakeniene talks to Supreme Council deputy chairman Ceslovas Stankevicius, and to Romualdas Ozolas, a member of the Moscow negotiations delegation, on the Lithuanian Supreme Council's proposal to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Pakeniene first asks Stankevicius, one of the co-authors of this document, to give his explanation on the main reasons for the appearance of the document.

Stankevicius replies: "First of all the decision adopted by us on 11 March was unanimously confirmed at the nationwide opinion poll of the population of Lithuania on 9 February. This is one of the factors that underline the resolution of the People of Lithuania, and we wanted to explain this to the USSR Supreme Soviet. Another reason would be this: Neither the negotiations delegation nor the government of the Soviet Union is changing its stance, that is, it seems to us that they are not prepared to change it and to start negotiations with the Republic of Lithuania concerning interstate relations." He says that the proposal was made to the Supreme Soviet to entrust the USSR executive power with the task of returning the occupied buildings in Lithuania and withdrawing the repressive troops.

Talking about the possible reaction from Moscow, as Stankevicius says: "The leaders of the USSR including President Gorbachev, and Supreme Soviet chairman Lukyanov have great influence on the USSR Supreme Soviet and can make their contribution to ensure that the Supreme Soviet could solve the topical issues for us."

Stankevicius says that he knows that there are a considerable number of deputies who would show a positive attitude to these issues. He adds that "if we did not make this proposal, if we did not take these steps, then this would not be beneficial to us. We must show initiative, and I hope one day we will succeed."

Romualdas Ozolas opines that this proposal is not some kind of a new step in the negotiations with Moscow. He says that this document should be regarded only as a means to set up a more favorable situation for the negotiations. He thinks that the document will be listened to in the Kremlin if some goodwill is demonstrated there, and this is exactly what he doubts. Most probably the reaction of the Kremlin will not be favorable to Lithuania, he says.

Ozolas continues: "Here lies the essence of the entire issue. I do not expect any reaction from the Supreme Soviet, and even if there is any reaction, then it would be far from supporting our position in the proposal to solve matters in our favor." He adds that even if some reaction is given by the Supreme Soviet, it will be in the form of "some recommendations to the Soviet president to apply the law on secession from the Soviet Union to us, in other words, to propose to us to implement the law on non-secession from the Soviet Union."

Ozolas says that so far there has been no contacts with the Soviet negotiation delegation newly set up by Gorbachev. This delegation was set up almost three weeks ago, on 1 February. V. Doguzhiyev, head of the Soviet negotiation delegation, promised some days later to propose the time for the meeting of both parties, however, up to now Lithuania has not been given this proposal.

Lithuanian Secretariat Confirms Government Legal

LD2202234191 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian
1500 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Statement from the Lithuanian Supreme Council Secretariat]

[Text] The Secretariat of the Lithuanian Supreme Council draws the attention of the Supreme Council to the fact that certain Lithuanian and foreign mass media express doubts or make statements that the present Government of the Republic of Lithuania is unlawful because during the appointment of the prime minister, Gediminas Vagnorius, on 13 January 1991 there was no required quorum of the deputies at the Supreme Council sitting.

The Secretariat of the Supreme Council has established the following facts:

1. The stenographic report of that session was being produced from 1445. It shows that during the first voting on the formation of the provisional defense leadership, 93 deputies were present in the hall.

During the second voting on the release of Deputy Simenas from his duties as prime minister and during the second voting on the appointment of Deputy Gediminas Vagnorius to the post of prime minister no doubts were raised about the quorum, and therefore the deputies were not counted.

During the fourth voting on the appointment of ministers Vytautas Navickas, Leonas Vaidotas Asmantas, Darius Kuolys, Vaidotas Antanaitis, Kostas Birulis, Algimantas Nasvytis, Jonas Birziskis, Algis Dobravolskas, Juozas Olekas, Algirdas Saudargas, Albertas Ambraziejus Sinevicius, 95 deputies voted in favor, there no deputies voting against or abstaining.

During the fifth voting on the appointment of Deputy Zigmantas Vaisvila to the post of deputy prime minister, 95 deputies were present in the hall.

The secretariat has listened to the sound recording of the session, and confirms that the figures stated in the stenographic report are correct.

2. During the session Member of the Secretariat Deputy Rasa Rastauskiene was registering the deputies and confirms that 99 deputies were registered during the voting on the appointment of the prime minister. The mandates of two deputies, Kazimieras Uoka and Vilius Baldisis, were limited.

2. On 14-15 February 1991, 94 deputies confirmed with their signatures that during that voting they were present in the hall of the session. One deputy—Vidnante Jasiukaityte—has not confirmed her presence because she is ill. But the Secretariat and other deputies confirm that she was present in the hall.

Basing itself on these facts, the Secretariat of the Supreme Council draws the following conclusion: The required quorum—not less than 92 deputies—really was present in the hall during the voting on the appointment of the prime minister.

Lithuanian Group Criticizes Privatization Law

LD2402145791 Vilnius International Service
in Lithuanian 0100 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] The Lithuanian Liberty League believes that the adoption of the laws on state property privatization and apartment sales must be halted, until our own finance and credit system has been established and own currency has been introduced in Lithuania.

The Liberty League's stance concerning these laws has been published in the state newspaper, LIETUVOS AIDAS.

The state property privatization law has been under parliamentary deliberation for nearly a month and should be adopted next week. Shortly after, the law on apartment sales will also be deliberated. The adoption of

these laws, especially that on privatization, is connected in Lithuania with radical changes in the economy, on the way to a free market.

The Lithuanian Government and the majority in the Supreme Council also concur that all of the state property to be privatized must not be privatized in rubles. That is why only one guarantor of this property will be privatized, according to the law currently under discussion. The rest will only be sold following the introduction of our own currency, when the country has its finance and credit system.

The Liberty League has labelled the Lithuanian Government's desire to privatize property as soon as possible for worthless Soviet rubles as an economic crime. According to the league, only the preparatory stage of privatization is necessary at present, as is planned by the Estonians. What this preparatory stage means is not indicated by the league activists.

Baltic Delegations Attend Nordic Council Session

LD2502213291 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian
1800 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The Nordic Council, which is comprised of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, has begun its meeting in Copenhagen. One of the topics is its position toward the Baltic republics, whose representative are seeking support in the West for their independence aims.

The Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian delegations are attending the meeting as guests.

The representatives of Denmark and Iceland were in favor of granting observer status to the Baltic countries' delegations, however, Finland and Norway were against it.

Gorbunovs Leads Latvian Delegation

LD2502224491 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian
1400 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Today a Latvian parliamentary delegation led by Anatolijs Gorbunovs left for Copenhagen, where the regular session of the Nordic Council is being held.

International Conference on Baltics Scheduled

LD2602093791 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian
1300 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Summary] An international conference on the Baltic crisis has been planned to take place in Tallinn at the time of the 3 March referendum. This was revealed today at the government session.

Gorbunovs Hopes for Gorbachev Compromise*AU2502150991 Hamburg BILD AM SONNTAG
in German 24 Feb 91 p 6*

[Interview with Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Latvia, by F. Weckbach-Mara; place, date not given: "Latvian President: If Gorbachev Continues His Tough Course, Everything Will Collapse"]

[Text] [Weckbach-Mara] When will Latvia become an independent country?

[Gorbunovs] From a legal viewpoint, Latvia is already a sovereign state. We are currently implementing our independence. As a matter of fact, two-thirds of the Russian-speaking population support us in our efforts. As events that took place in Riga in January (Soviet troops stormed the Interior Ministry, four Latvians were shot dead—the editors) have shown, those who advocate independence are willing to do anything to protect it.

[Weckbach-Mara] Even if Moscow should again use military force?

[Gorbunovs] It is no longer so easy for the Soviets to resort to military force. We will insist that no armed forces of any state, including the Soviet Union, will be deployed permanently in Latvia. We are currently negotiating solutions for a transition period which should regulate the stay of the Soviet Army in Latvia. We want to create largely normal living conditions for the members of the military and their families.

[Weckbach-Mara] What will the independent Latvia of the future be like?

[Gorbunovs] I personally would like to lead Latvia into a new era. Together with the Republic of Russia and the other republics of present-day USSR, we want to become members of the community of European states. These countries want to establish an economic community. In this connection, Latvia will adhere to democratic principles, including the market economy.

[Weckbach-Mara] Thus, you see no chance for President Gorbachev to maintain the unity of the old USSR?

[Gorbunovs] Gorbachev's behavior in the past few years convinced me that his goal is to maintain and renew the USSR as a superpower. It will now depend solely on the president of the USSR whether we will arrive at an extreme situation. If Mikhail Gorbachev is ready for a compromise, there will be a chance for a peaceful solution, but if he sticks to his course, an opportunity will be lost. In the same way as perestroika became a personal triumph for Gorbachev, its collapse and the end of democracy will become his personal tragedy.

Latvian People's Front 'Divided' on Referendum*PM2202150791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
19 Feb 91 Union Edition p 2*

[Irina Litvinova report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Referendum In Doubt"]

[Text] Riga—The Latvian Supreme Soviet has deferred the adoption of a resolution on its attitude to the organization of the USSR referendum on the question of the preservation of the USSR.

The opinions of deputies from the People's Front faction were divided. A. Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, called on deputies to reflect on the political consequences that may arise if the legislature takes up a neutral stance. He deems it necessary to monitor the referendum scheduled for 17 March.

The decision on holding a referendum was made by deputies from the city soviet of the republic's second largest city—Daugavpils.

Latvian Delegation Formed for Talks With USSR*LD2102153691 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian
0530 GMT 21 Feb 91*

[Text] A delegation from Latvia has been formed for talks with the USSR about Latvian-Soviet relations, which has been confirmed by the legislature. The delegation will be led by Ilmars Bisers, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. It includes the leaders of both parliamentary factions, Janis Dinevics and Sergejs Dimanis, Public Security Department Director Janis Baskers, republic Chief Arbitrator Gvido Narkevics, and the first deputy ministers of foreign affairs, internal affairs and economics. Ilmars Bisers has already met in Moscow with the leader of the Soviet side's delegation, USSR First Deputy Premier Velichko, to establish direct contacts.

Latvia's Bisers Comments on Talks*LD2202092291 Riga International Service in Latvian
2030 GMT 21 Feb 91*

[Text] The USSR-Latvian working group will begin talks not later than 10 March, according to Ilmars Bisers, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia. This was decided in the discussions just held in Moscow with USSR First Deputy Premier Velichko. Velichko emphasized that it is not possible to start the talks before the poll of inhabitants has been concluded, because its results could alter the standpoint of the Latvian Supreme Council and Council of Ministers on many essential questions. For his part, Ilmars Bisers added that the poll will not influence the solving of economic questions, and discussions on this could begin immediately.

In the expected talks with Moscow it is expected that discussions will focus on questions concerning the State of Latvia, its inhabitants' status, and that of the USSR.

Army in the republic; the conversion of property; the position of enterprises and organizations; the intellectual property of Latvia; and officers' pensions.

After the meeting with the USSR first deputy premier, who will head the talks with Latvia on the Moscow side, Ilmars Bisers stated that, unfortunately, Mr. Velichko does not have adequate information on the political situation in Latvia.

Latvian Official Hits Media for False Reports

*LD2302194891 Riga International Service in Latvian
2030 GMT 22 Feb 91*

[Text] Andrejs Krastins, deputy chairman of the Latvian Supreme Council, has announced that some of the republic's information media have spread several erroneous pieces of information, among them on the Supreme Soviet's new Republic of Latvia draft constitution to be drawn up. Andrejs Krastins emphasized that in conformity with the 4 May declaration of independence, the function of several articles of the Satversme [constitution of the independent republic] of the Republic of Latvia has been restored. In a television interview Andrejs Krastins continues:

[Begin Krastins recording] I want to explain that at the Latvian Supreme Council no kind of new version of the Latvian Constitution is being drawn up. There is under work some fundamental law for this transitional period of ours, there are various constitutional laws, but this does not concern a new constitution. We have our Latvian Satversme. It is in force, and, in restoring the Republic of Latvia, we will be guided by this Satversme.

The next erroneous piece of information is that the Latvian Supreme Council has formed a delegation for talks with the USSR. This, too, is an inaccurate piece of information, because such a delegation was formed for consultations with the USSR, because, I remind you, it was mentioned in the USSR President's decree that, first, a delegation of various officials be formed for talks with the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, that is, with a non-existent state formation, and, second, this delegation was formed only to determine the situation here in Latvia. [sentence as heard] The Supreme Council, in forming, in practice, a government delegation in which only some deputies participate, also had one purpose, to establish contacts with this USSR commission and to provide it with information, to gather information on the position of the USSR. A delegation for talks with the USSR has not been formed and no talks with the USSR, for the time being, unfortunately, are taking place, although this would be very desirable.

Latvia Creates 'Public Security Department'

*PM2202140391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 19 Feb 91 First Edition p 3*

[Correspondent Colonel M. Ziyeminsh report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "'Sovereign' Security"]

[Text] Riga, 18 Feb—The republic Council of Ministers has announced the creation of a public security department. The range of questions which the new government organ will tackle has also been formulated.

It is not at all clear from the document published in the press what will be specifically covered by the "system of public security and self-defense." There has been a lot of gossip and conflict situations surrounding the unofficial structures which have been created and have been operating recently. Of course, they have not helped the stability of the sociopolitical situation in the republic.

The following point in the government resolution also strikes me as very contradictory: "Mindful of the Latvian population's initiative to support by means of its savings the strengthening of the system of public security and self-defense in the republic, the public security department is to be permitted to open a special account for voluntary donations." Quite honestly, somehow I have never heard of any special desire on the people's part to sacrifice personal savings to such a venture by the republican authorities. Although, maybe this is precisely a delicate hint that they should more actively join in the latest donations campaign.

Latvian Labor Party Appeals for Yeltsin Support

*LD2302214791 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian
0000 GMT 22 Feb 91*

[Text] The Saldus region organization of the Latvian Democratic Labor Party at a regular board meeting decided to send a telegram of support to Boris Yeltsin. The members of the Labor Party call upon all democratically disposed organizations and people to do likewise. The mission of Latvia in Moscow may be used as a mediator. It is necessary to do this without delay, because the Latvian Communist Party has already begun a campaign of sending messages against Boris Yeltsin. It may happen again that we will have to hear that Gorbachev has a whole sackful of support telegrams while Yeltsin has none.

European Groups To Observe Estonian Referendum

*LD2502155991 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian
0800 GMT 25 Feb 91*

[Text] It has been announced by the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the European Parliament, the European Council, and the Council of the Nordic Countries agreed to send their representatives to Estonia to observe the referendum on independence.

It was reported by the Estonian news agency that representatives from 30 countries have been invited to Tallinn to observe the nationwide poll of the population.

Estonia Proposes Law To Defend State Symbols*PM2402141591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 Feb 91 Union Edition p 1*

[From IZVESTIYA, TASS, INTERFAX, REUTER, and UPI roundup: "Estonia Defends Its State Symbols"]

[Text] On 18 February a meeting of the Estonian Government in Tallinn examined the question of the application and use of the state symbols of the Estonian Republic. It is also proposed to amend the Estonian Republic's Criminal Code in this connection. In particular, the deliberate damaging or desecration of Estonia's symbols will be punishable by various measures—ranging from fines of between 200 and 500 rubles to up to 3 years' imprisonment.

Pro-CPSU Estonian Party Attacks Yeltsin Remarks*LD2302230991 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1340 GMT 23 Feb 91*

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tallinn, 23 Feb (TASS)—The recent interview given by Boris Yeltsin, head of the Russian legislature, in which he called for the resignation of USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, has produced a stormy reaction in Estonia, as it has throughout the country.

The Secretariat of the Estonian Communist Party Central Committee (CPSU) has described Boris Yeltsin's demand as "a political provocation aimed at toppling a legally elected authority as embodied in the president of the country." A statement published today stresses that Boris Yeltsin's broadcast demonstrated yet again that the policy pursued by him has nothing to do with democracy and is aimed at seizing political power and satisfying personal ambitions.

The Secretariat of the Estonian CP Central Committee (CPSU) called on the party organizations and working people of the republic to stick firmly to a position of preserving the USSR and supporting the policies of the country's president.

RSFSR**Yeltsin Ill; Postpones Transcaucasus Tour***LD2502210391 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1800 GMT 25 Feb 91*

[Text] The visit to the North Caucasus, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan by RSFSR Supreme Soviet Chairman Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, which was planned for tomorrow, has been postponed because he is ill. According to the information given to the NOVOSTI news agency, it was proposed that there would be a meeting between Boris Nikolayevich and Gamsakhurdia, chairman of the Georgian Supreme Soviet, at which, among other things, the question of settling the conflict

in South Ossetia was to be discussed. (?Burbulis), authorized representative of the head of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic legislature, reported to a NOVOSTI correspondent that the aim of Yeltsin's tour was to explain the position of the Russian leadership, discussion of future relations between Russia and the Transcaucasian republics, and an attempt to facilitate the solving of acute problems in that region.

Silayev Delegation Begins Turkey Visit*LD2402160191 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1459 GMT 24 Feb 91*

[Text] Ankara, 24 Feb (TASS)—The official visit to Turkey of the Russian Federation's delegation, led by Ivan Silayev, chairman of the Republican Council of Ministers, has started. The developing trade and economic and cultural links between the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] and Turkey will be discussed during three days of meetings and talks.

Today during the welcoming ceremony at the Esneboga Airport, Ankara, the sides noted that the Russian delegation's visit is a new important step towards rapprochement between the peoples of the two neighboring countries. At the present time, I.S. Silayev, head of the Russian Government said the Russian Federation accounts for about 80 percent of the entire volume of trade and economic relations between the USSR and Turkey. The Soviet Union's transition to a market economy opens broad prospects for economic cooperation. I.S. Silayev stressed Russia's preparedness to make its contribution to the development of Soviet-Turkish relations in all areas.

Mehmet Kececiler, Turkey's minister of state, noted that the direct participation of Union republics in developing Soviet-Turkish relations, which are being built on the basis of good-neighborliness, friendship, and mutual benefit, received all-around support from both the Soviet and Turkish sides.

The agenda of the Russian Federation delegation includes meetings with Turgut Czal, president of Turkey, and Yildirim Akbulut, the country's prime minister. Talks will be held at the Ministry of Finance and Customs. Representatives of Soviet Russia will visit several industrial sites and will familiarize themselves with the country's historical and cultural monuments.

Silayev Meets With Turkish Premier*LD2502141791 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT
25 Feb 91*

[By TASS correspondents Yalchin Ali-zade and Valeriy Litvinenko]

[Text] Ankara February 25 TASS—Russian Federation Prime Minister Ivan Silayev met his Turkish counterpart Yildirim Akbulut here today. He informed Akbulut of transformations taking place in the life of Soviet society, pointing out that perestroika success is inseparably

associated with both greater economic independence and stronger sovereignty of Union republics and the integrity of the Soviet Union.

Matters of economic cooperation between the Russian Federation and Turkey were touched upon and ways to implement them were discussed during the conversation.

The two prime ministers declared for the establishment and development of direct business contacts between individual businesses of the two republics and pointed out the importance of reciprocal visits and the need to maintain such contacts on a permanent basis.

The delegation of the Russian Federation today visited the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder and the first president of Turkey. A wreath was laid at the foot of the memorial. Silayev made an entry in the honorary visitors' book of the M.K. Ataturk memorial complex.

Holds Talks With Ozal

LD2602095791 *Moscow TASS in English 1959 GMT 25 Feb 91*

[By TASS correspondents Yalchin Aliy-Zade and Valeriy Litvinenko]

[Text] Ankara February 25 TASS—President Turgut Ozal of Turkey today met Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev, who is in Turkey on an official visit.

The two statesmen exchanged views on the development of economic ties between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Turkey, which would facilitate progress of Soviet-Turkish relations in the direction of good-neighborliness and friendship.

Further Reportage on Turkey Visit

WA2502184591

For reportage on the visit by Ivan Silayev, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, to Turkey, including reports on his talks with Turkish President Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister Akbulut, State Minister Kececiler, and Finance and Customs Minister Kahveci on trade and agriculture ties between the two countries, please see the Turkey section of the 25 February West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Deputy on Pro-Yeltsin Rally; Planned Congress

LD2502220891 *Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Feb 91*

[Report by correspondent Yelena Kuznetsova at the RSFSR Supreme Soviet—live]

[Text] [Kuznetsova] With me at the microphone I have Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] People's Deputy Vladimir Valentinovich Seleznev, who is deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee on Security. Vladimir Valentinovich, yesterday you

attended the meeting in Manezhnaya Square. What are your impressions of this meeting?

[Seleznev] I was impressed, first of all, by the size of the crowd. The whole of Manezhnaya Square was packed, literally. I think there were far more people there than on 23 February, when a meeting was held in support of the USSR armed forces and our Union. I was struck by how well organized, on the whole, the meeting was. On the whole, there were no incidents, no clashes. People went home after the meeting. Even the square was left clean. There was nothing there. A number of speeches were made at the meeting by USSR and RSFSR people's deputies, who made specific demands and proposals. In brief, one can say that almost all the speakers demanded the president's resignation on the grounds that during the six years of his leadership the country has got into a worse state than it has ever been in. Much criticism was leveled at Leonid Kravchenko. Even after the criticism he didn't bother to give fuller and more objective information about the meeting on the Vremya program.

[Kuznetsov] By the way, Vladimir Valentinovich, it was stated yesterday on the "Vremya" program that the meeting had, on the whole, been of a destructive nature. Do you agree with this?

[Seleznev] Well, if it had been destructive, things would have been broken, rejected or jettisoned. As far as I know, nothing of the sort happened. The proposals which were made there were specific ideas for extricating Russia from the situation it is in. The assertions that the president is not supported by the majority of the people do not, I think, amount to a destructive position. What they were saying was that we need a person who can at long last get the entire country out of the long and protracted crisis.

[Kuznetsov] The main reason people attended the meeting yesterday was to express support for Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. That was not mentioned on the Vremya program, either.

[Seleznev] You are absolutely right. The main slogans at the meeting were ones defending Yeltsin. The crowd attending the meeting chanted: Yeltsin! Yeltsin! There were many placards defending Yeltsin. All the noticeboards in the corridor and lobby of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet were literally covered with telegrams from working people, expressing support for Yeltsin. So, I think the meeting also accomplished this objective quite well.

[Kuznetsov] Vladimir Valentinovich, an extraordinary congress has been summoned. What is the purpose of this congress?

[Seleznev] There are several views on the actual idea of convening the congress.

[Kuznetsov] Is it really a sensible idea? After all, the congress will cost a tremendous amount of money.

[Seleznov] In my view, we should nevertheless sort out the situation we now find ourselves in. Under no circumstances would I connect the congress with Yeltsin's resignation, which was evidently the general intent of the declaration made by the six members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

[Kuznetsov] That is the task they have set, it seems.

[Seleznov] Yes. Evidently that is the objective they are setting. They want a vote of no-confidence in him and, if possible, to remove him from office. But I think the congress should have the following agenda: A report by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin on the political situation in Russia, a speech or report by Ivan Stepanovich Silayev on the economic state of Russia. There should also be a debate on the conclusion of the Union treaty and the Federation treaty. The congress should be restricted to those questions. In other words, it should be short, with specific objectives.

[Kuznetsov] Some people wanted to convene the congress before the referendum.

[Seleznov] I believe that the group of Russian Communists made several proposals for the congress to be convened earlier. The first date suggested was 25 February. The next date they came up with was 4 or 5 March. Then they suggested 11-12 March. The left-of-center groups, including Democratic Russia, proposed holding the congress after the referendum.

[Kuznetsov] It's probably better to hold it after the referendum.

[Seleznov] I agree with you. After all, the main question is whether there is to be a Union or not. Generally speaking, we do not question the continued existence of the Union, or the Russian Federation for that matter. If the referendum confirms this belief, it will be easier to discuss these concepts at the congress.

'Rossiya' Deputies Statement Denounces Yeltsin

PM2502145791 Moscow *RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA*
in Russian 23 Feb 91 p 1

[TASS report: "'Rossiya' Faction Statement at RSFSR Supreme Soviet session"]

[Text] People's Deputy N.A. Pavlov, one of the coordinators of the "Rossiya" deputies' faction, asked to speak 22 February at the morning sitting of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet session. He said that he had been instructed to read out a statement prepared by a group of people's deputies representing the "Rossiya" faction and signed by 114 deputies, 70 of them members of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

The document says, in particular:

"In connection with B.N. Yeltsin's 19 February 1991 Central Television speech we deem it necessary to draw

our fellow citizens' attention to the main point of B.N. Yeltsin's demand—the transfer of the country's government to the Federation Council. From the legal viewpoint this demand is absolutely unconstitutional and from the political viewpoint will result in the elimination of the USSR as a state and as a union of equal republics. Thus, once again and in an extremely overt manner, a struggle against a specific state leader is being transformed into a struggle against the existence of the state itself. It is a dangerous illusion that the collapse of the USSR will stop at the borders of the RSFSR. The deliberate destruction of the USSR cannot fail to bring with it the disintegration of the very republics that are aspiring to become independent states. These processes are already under way, notably in the RSFSR; the fate of Russia and the fate of the Union are, after all, indissolubly linked.

"On the basis of the firm conviction that there is no acceptable alternative to the USSR as a federative state, we express our resolute disagreement with B.N. Yeltsin's position and deem it necessary to immediately discuss the political and economic situation within the RSFSR and the country as a whole at an emergency Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies."

Having read out the statement, N.A. Pavlov added that all the document's signatories are pressing for an extraordinary congress 11 March.

Directors Reject Call for Gorbachev Resignation

PM2602094291 Moscow *PRAVDA* in Russian
21 Feb 91 Second Edition p 2

["Statement by the All-Union Congress of Enterprise Directors"]

[Text] In connection with the televised 19 February speech by B.N. Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet, we the congress participants, representing all sectors of the national economy, all forms of ownership, Union republics, and economic regions, declare that we do not support the demand for USSR President M.S. Gorbachev to resign.

The congress affirms the need to steadfastly follow a course toward stabilizing the atmosphere in the country and to continue with radical political and socioeconomic reforms.

Right now it is vital for the national and republic leadership to end confrontation, to display the utmost public wisdom, civil duty, and responsibility, and to halt the emerging division in our society. Our country will not survive yet another civil war.

Moscow, 20 February 1991.

Deputy Defends Yeltsin's TV Interview Remarks

LD2102234791 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1630 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Speech by Deputy Ambartsumov at a Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 21 February—recorded]

[Text] This is Deputy Ambartsumov of territorial constituency No. 53. Esteemed colleagues! Regrettably I cannot say esteemed Presidium, because most of the members of the Presidium have conducted themselves in an unseemly way. We have heard a statement which was quite obviously prepared in advance and which was prepared and written when Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] was in Moscow. It is none other than a stab in his back, an unseemly stab. The accepted thing in parliamentary practice in such cases, if any of the parliamentary leaders do not agree with the chairman, is to submit their resignation and for their resignation to be made public indeed through the chairman of parliament.

It is quite obvious that we are dealing with the coordinated hounding of our chairman, the people's leader—a hounding that has been well-organized and has escalated. It is quite obvious that these people who do not now know how they will look the television viewers and the people of Russia in the face have been assigned this role precisely at this moment in time. I consider it a disgrace. I voted for certain members of the Presidium and I regret very much that they have behaved in this way.

Why is Boris Nikolayevich being reproached? He spoke the truth. Sincerity and honesty are characteristic of him. Not everyone likes what he said. Not everyone likes what he said about Gorbachev. He was at one time a supporter of Gorbachev, he said, but he reached the conclusion over many months that Gorbachev's policies had been constantly deteriorating, and he demanded his resignation. This is his entitlement. Normal parliamentary practice at every step demands the resignation of a president or a prime minister, and no one says that this is a call to civil war, as is now being claimed by our party press. Incidentally, when we had a rally on Manezhnaya Square and 500,000 Muscovites were assembled there and there were slogans demanding the resignation of Gorbachev, the government, and the Supreme Soviet, no one interpreted it as a call to civil war. Yeltsin in no way made a statement calling for the overthrow of the president. His statement in no way means that he refuses to cooperate with the president.

[Khasbulatov] Round off your speech.

[Ambartsumov] However, it is quite obvious that this cooperation is being hampered at every step by the president himself, and it is the forces that surround the latter, tie his hands and have made him possibly a voluntary captive who have started the process of civil war, and not Yeltsin.

In conclusion, I would like to say that unless we support our chairman, the leader of the people of Russia, at this critical moment we are not worth a plug nickel, and, if we are dissolved, it will be the right thing. [applause]

Yeltsin Assailed for 'Destructive' Actions

91UN0923A Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 16 Feb 91 First Edition p 2

["Open Letter to USSR People's Deputy B.N. Yeltsin From a Voter": "I Want to Ask You..."]

[Text] It will soon be two years since you were elected to the Union deputy corps—the supreme leadership of our country. You, Boris Nikolayevich, a deputy from Moscow, also became the chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet during that time. The period is sufficient for each of us voters to be able to ask: What have you done for our native land and for each of us? I am trying to answer this question mentally—there is nothing positive to please me. Perhaps I am mistaken, but I am writing what I feel and think. You have done a lot that is destructive, that has complicated our life, and deprived us of peace and happiness. We have begun to live in continuous agitation and in anxious anticipation of something still worse. And the farther we go, the stronger is the feeling of fear for the fate of the country.

Everything is due to the fact that much of your activity, in my opinion, is leading to the destruction of the USSR, and consequently to a deterioration in the life of all Soviet peoples, including ours, Russians. The impression is created that you have made up your mind to deliver a destructive blow against that which was created by our forefathers and fathers over many centuries—a blow against a united great state. For centuries the Russian land was the center of attraction and the native mother for people of various nationalities. Other people looked to her for defense, shelter, and peaceful existence. But why is Russia now transformed almost into the main force for the destruction of the USSR?

We have repeatedly heard from you that Russia will no longer work for others, "feed others," as was added by many Russian deputies. But name just one republic, just one people that is sitting like a parasite on the neck of Russia. Yes, in many ways the RSFSR was placed on unequal terms in comparison with other Union republics. But never has a Russian person refused anyone a piece of bread. Also in the Soviet period, Russia, diverting a lot from itself, gave freely to peoples of the border areas, and afterwards to those who suffered in the war years, although it itself suffered more than anyone else. Of course, when the fraternal peoples got stronger, the time also came to pay more attention to Russia. But this should be done properly, tactfully, and without reproaches and claims. State the question of a fair distribution of national income simply but firmly. Without loud announcements that Russia will not feed others.

After becoming the head of the Russian parliament, you proclaimed the priority of local laws over all-Union laws. Such an all-embracing form will only lead to the destruction of the USSR. Never in history has there existed a sufficiently strong and long-flourishing state in which local laws, and not national laws, had priority. There are many examples of this in the history of various states. I also want to mention your persistent invocations that Russia will not surrender even one millimeter of its sovereignty. Is such obstinacy really for the well-being and prosperity of Russia? If this is the way that all subjects of the USSR behave, we will never create a united state. Any union, even the simplest kind, requires concessions from the parties in behalf of common interests. The more complicated the union, the stronger we want to make it, the more substantive the concessions of all parties must be. These concessions in their essence are not really concessions but specific actions for perfecting and reinforcing life in general and, consequently, the life of each republic individually; and, vice versa, if tension brought about by obstinacy continues in the USSR, not one republic will be able to live robustly.

Concerning your destructive actions, I will mention also the encouraging attitude toward numerous rallies. This is a direct wrecking of the country's national economy. Rallies have been used at all times as a destructive element—they do not promote creativity. But since coming to power you, together with the "democratic Russians" and "interregionalists," have consistently been resorting to this method of destruction.

Not long ago you attempted to take one more step toward the destruction of the USSR, and you spoke—we all heard this over television—about the creation of a republic army...

More and more examples can be cited of your actions that demonstrate that the fame of Gerostrat gives no respite to the "democrats" and "interregionalists." Their aggressive efforts are gradually being removed from the political arena one after the other by real patriots who are concerned for the fatherland, who do not hurl themselves into reckless actions at breakneck speed, and who are not pushing the country into an abyss. Not long ago these forces achieved another victory—the resignation of N.I. Ryzhkov, who, according to V.I. Tereshchenko, an eminent economist, headed a very capable government. Now the USSR president's turn has come. One can only be amazed by the hypocrisy of the "interregionalists." Two to three months ago they let loose a storm of venom against members of the CPSU Central Committee for subjecting the general secretary to friendly criticism. It would seem they took up his defense. But in checking, it turns out that this was a maneuver.

The anti-president campaign is not accidental. M.S. Gorbachev is known to all as a consistent supporter of the preservation of the USSR. But, judging by everything, the fate of millions of fellow countrymen does not trouble you very much. You are consumed by one

all-absorbing passion—to achieve victory at any price. Apparently, you are not troubled that at this price the USSR will be destroyed.

You are using the Supreme Soviet of Russia skillfully in the fight with the president. That which is approved by the USSR Supreme Soviet, as a rule, is blocked by the Russian parliament. Even though common sense suggests that the Union decisions are preferable, if for no other reason than that they are adopted on the basis of the interests of all republics, including the RSFSR—and there are many deputies there from Russia!

But the way sessions take place on Krasnopresnenskaya Naberezhnaya is at times embarrassing, and even if you are watching television alone you start to blush. It is the obsequiously servile comments—"Listen attentively"—when the unction pours from the rostrum in the direction of the chairman, or when abuse is directed against the president; and the bad manners that some of the deputies demonstrate in doing this; and how difficult it is for those who do not please the "democratic Russians" to get to the rostrum...

But how is the obedience of a rather significant group of deputies explained? Is it not with those benefits and privileges with which they were made regally happy? But you see, many of them, including you also, became deputies in part also because you proclaimed yourselves to be fighters against privileges. Everyone remembers the uproar that was raised regarding the increase in salaries of soviet workers at the end of 1989. But how did the so-called democrats behave after they came to power? They set salaries for themselves that were almost twice as high. They swore before the elections to live on a level with the people, but they received their mandate and became concerned first of all about their own privileges. Moreover, taking an unspecified sum out of the pockets of the voters every day, individual deputies do not show up at the sessions, and, so to say, are absent from their work. At times there is not even a quorum for the adoption of decisions. But privileges in the acquisition of cars, household appliances, and manufactured goods?... Is this also equality with their voters?

But with what ease the people's money is squandered on the conducting of congresses and sessions. A special congress was planned to be held for three days; they sat a half month and we, the taxpayers, were not asked. Considerably more was spent in less than a year on congresses and sessions than was spent for the previous five years of Supreme Soviet activity. "Democratic" authority is quite an overhead for the people. And what is more, it is economizing at the expense of the people. For example, the real people's defender—People's Control—has been eliminated.

So, before calling people to a meeting and demanding the resignation of Union leaders, is it not better for the "democratic Russians" to clean themselves up in order to be able to look calmly into the eyes of the people. Otherwise, all of this will appear to be profiteering.

I also want to ask you, Boris Nikolayevich: Do you not really feel responsibility to your people for the harmful effect that the new Russian mass media is having on them? Recently, a mouthpiece for your line appeared (somehow a radio journalist let this slip) in the form of Russian Radio. Its influence is simply pernicious. As a voter and a resident of Moscow, I request that you make a decision that shields us from radio piracy and radio coercion. In Moscow (as in all of Russia) a substantial part of the population uses line-operated radio receivers. We pay our hard-earned kopeks for this. But we want to pay for what we want to listen to. But starting this year, this radio voice began to break into our apartments like an evil whirlwind. I, of course, am not against Russia having its own radio as well as television. But you will agree that I purchase what I like, and that I should not be compelled in a forceful way to listen to that which is not to my liking.

There are a lot of things I want to ask you about, but the main thing that is particularly disturbing is the fate of the country and the integrity of the USSR. This concern pushes all other problems into the background. That is why I appeal to you: Take a critical look at all of your actions and analyze them—are they all correct?

[Signed] V. Smirnov, a voter. Moscow.

Abdulatipov on RSFSR Federation Treaty

91UN0938A Moscow *LITERATURNAYA GAZETA*
in Russian No 7, 20 Feb 91 p 2

[Interview with R.G. Abdulatipov by correspondent Amir Valitov; place and date not given: "Federation—Reality, Not Window Dressing"]

[Text] *The Russian Federation Council has in session adopted a draft federal treaty as a basis. Our correspondent interviews Doctor of Philosophical Sciences R.G. Abdulatipov, chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Council of Nationalities.*

[Valitov] We all know the abbreviation "RSFSR" and use it very often. But there has not, in my opinion, ever been a treaty on the creation of the federation. On what basis does the RSFSR exist?

[Abdulatipov] It exists without any basis. It observes merely the principle of historical continuity. To turn to the documents, the decision on the formation thereof was made by the Fifth Congress of Soviets in 1918, when national-territorial autonomous entities in Russia did not exist in the legal sense. So there was no one to negotiate with.

But it should not be forgotten that Russia, regardless of historical conditions (some had joined it voluntarily, some had been subjugated by fire and sword), had been formed long since as a Union of peoples. That is, it is a

federation not in the legal but historical and cultural sense. I would say that Russia is a federation by birth, rather.

[Valitov] Were you to fill out a Russian questionnaire, you would undoubtedly leave in the "social origin" section the entry "federation"?

[Abdulatipov] Undoubtedly, in terms of national composition. A census of the end of the 19th century showed the existence in Russia of more than 180 peoples, although Russia acquired its federal essence after October, whether we wish to recognize this or not. Prior to this there was the great-power Russian nation, there was an empire. The rights of other peoples were limited, limited to a great extent.

[Valitov] But do not many people call the Soviet Union an empire today also?

[Abdulatipov] If there is anything with which it is hard to agree, it is this. Because an empire always has its great-power nations and aspirations. The Russian nation, on the other hand, renounced such claims immediately after the October Revolution inasmuch as many of its figures believed that until the Russians liberated other peoples, they would themselves not be free.

[Valitov] They did liberate others, but did they become free themselves?

[Abdulatipov] Berdyayev provided a quite accurate description of the Russian consciousness as a consciousness of extremes. Indeed, we went from one extreme to the other. We dismembered the unitary empire in the name of each people, virtually, being given statehood, although prior to 1917 Lenin had been opposed to the idea of federation. He understood that Russia, which had taken shape over centuries, could not be demolished. It was only when the situation was almost hopeless that he agreed to a federation.

Of course, that was a historical necessity, but an extreme, nonetheless. Having accelerated the shaping of national state formations, we disrupted historical continuity and the ties of the peoples and interrupted the very process of consolidation of the nations.

The totalitarian system into which the Union of SSR grew enclosed the specifics and singularities of nations different in terms of level of historical maturity in a standardized pattern. This applies to the Russian people also (here, in my view, are to a large extent the sources of the present separatism and nationalism). The peoples have remembered once again their nationality.

[Valitov] So it came about that the Federation took shape without the consent of the national-territorial formations constituting it, without a treaty, that is?

[Abdulatipov] But what was to be done if we needed to preserve unity and business and economic ties and strengthen our defenses? But it is here that **the revival**

and, simultaneously, the tragedy of the Russian Federation begins. Essentially its machinery of state automatically became the machinery of the Union of SSR, and the Russian peoples found themselves the most frustrated in the sense of form of government.... By the end of the 1920's, in fact, the federation had become purely decorative and sham. Accordingly, the Union of SSR became window dressing decoration also. These were unitary states.

[Valitov] Could the new federal treaty break with this customary model?

[Abdulatipov] Its main purpose is a normalization of federal and interethnic relations. In order that Russia might appear to the Soviet and world community as a civilized state formation fully respecting the principles of national self-determination.

When we speak of a new federal treaty, it is not a question (as some people interpret it) of the disintegration of Russia. We want to fashion a normal and efficient union of peoples and territories and create a legal mechanism for the functioning of our Russian state. Those who accuse us of wanting with the aid of a federal treaty to complete the demolition of Russia are simply deliberately discrediting steps pertaining to the renewal of the RSFSR. The structure previously cemented only administratively, from the top, should be a connection of people and nations in order that any people and each individual feel equal to another.

We would recall that the indications of our nation are not so much territories—after all, there are in the world many peoples who live in various localities, but who keep themselves whole thanks to cultural traditions. I am convinced that the nation, as a formation, has not only a political and territorial but, to an even greater extent, a cultural and historical character.

[Valitov] Nonetheless, not only and not so much, surely?

[Abdulatipov] Economic and other factors are seen as base factors. But I emphasize once again: The cultural indication remains a principal and fundamental characteristic. Proving altogether that a given territory belongs only to a given people is not all that proper. Age-old migration processes in the world have been so powerful and have occurred so intensively that establishing a territory's affiliation is very difficult. Dividing peoples into indigenous and nonindigenous even more.

The federal treaty is aimed at securing the priority of the rights of the individual over the rights of the nation, class, and political party. Only free individuals can shape a free society, a nation included.

[Valitov] Are you not indulging in wishful thinking here? We should come down to earth, perhaps?

[Abdulatipov] No. An important feature of the draft federal treaty is a consideration of the realities that exist in our life. Although a number of comrades believes that this is virtually a return to the old ways. At the same

time, however, they propose the formation of a United States of Russia. Esteemed Gavriil Popov, for example, is initially for the disbandment of the current formations in order only subsequently to shape new ones. How many would there be? I do not know. But this would be a war of all against all. Would we play with people's fate?

[Valitov] You are calling for a consideration of realities, but are yourself proposing the adoption of a federal treaty before the Union treaty is to be adopted. Are you not hereby moving away from realities?

[Abdulatipov] It is a hundred times easier to shape a Union treaty than a federal treaty. What is most difficult, moreover, is determining the subjects of the federation.... Some 39 treaty drafts have passed through our hands, of which the 12th version remains, this having been submitted for the judgment of members of the legislature. When we finally came to formulate it, we concluded that we needed to take two classical versions of a federal structure. One, when a federation is built from national-state formations, the other, when it consists of states and lands—in which category are krais and oblasts with us?

[Valitov] You mean to say there are no analogies to such a federal treaty?

[Abdulatipov] In pure form, no. We have found ourselves in quite a complex situation. And we are being criticized from all sides—right and left. Some things in this criticism may be accepted, some things rejected. But for us it is important to establish in the federation normal relations. Extreme forces, on the other hand, have seen in the federal treaty the danger of a unification of Russia, but they are more comfortable with a "parade of sovereignties." They are hoping to prolong the time-frame of the signing of our treaty and simultaneously go for the Union treaty, thereby enshrining their priority in choice of status. Others, on the other hand, would like to preserve the old structures and ignore the existence even of national-state formations.

[Valitov] Many people are for the treaty, some people are against. Are there no other, particular, opinions?

[Abdulatipov] But why should there be? Some people are proposing models of a federal arrangement of other countries. The United States, say. But, I am convinced, they would be entirely unsuitable for us. It should not be forgotten that Russia has in its history suffered most not from the fact that it has been unduly enclosed (by an iron curtain frequently) but from an unthinking borrowing of projects not purely Russian. Beginning with the window that Peter I carved out to Europe. He endeavored to make Russians Germans, French, whatever, only not Russians. We should learn from Russia, from the peoples of Russia and not lose our national distinctiveness. Unfortunately, each new revolutionary wave slips into the country various foreign elements, which we attempt unsuccessfully to install in our reality. The present radicals—both "left" and "right"—are no exception.

[Valitov] The draft federal treaty says that the laws of the federation have supremacy throughout the territory of the Russian Federation. Will not such wording evoke a further flare up of the war of laws?

[Abdulatipov] It is precisely the point that the war of laws between the Union and the republics is largely explained by the fact that we have been unable to define our position in respect to the supremacy of laws. For this reason common federal laws should be supreme within the framework of the authority of the federation itself, otherwise there will be no integral system, and Russia itself will be destroyed. The list of powers that the republics, krais, and oblasts might delegate the Russian Federation should be closed once and for all. It should be delegated the minimum powers without which it cannot exist. The rest should be handled locally.

Yet everything is prescribed literally item by item at the top and sent out thence to the localities. It all becomes absurd. It is even specified what needs to be done with old, rotten telegraph poles. Otherwise no one would have any clue. We cannot go on like this!

[Valitov] Well, finally, the last question. Many people are proposing that a Russian Republic be distinguished in the RSFSR; others, on the contrary, are advocating the separation into individual republics of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East. What is your attitude toward this problem?

[Abdulatipov] It seems to me that these versions are very good ideally, but not for Russia. Not for present-day Russia, I would say.... Take a look: In only five republics of the federation do representatives of the nationality that gave its name to the territory constitute a majority of inhabitants. The Russian population constitutes the majority in all the rest. So we form a Russian republic—what would we do with it? One of two things—either disarticulate all the republics or leave the Russian population in them entirely. And both solutions are unrealistic. The idea of a Russian republic could only destroy Russia. We, on the other hand, are forming a federation in which the equality of the citizens, regardless of nationality, will to an increasingly great extent acquire priority significance. Living in one state should be profitable to the peoples in all respects. Then no one would have to be persuaded to remain in the federation, where emerging problems would be solved by civilized methods. Even the purpose of the treaty is not, perhaps, the classical version of a federation itself, which we would like, of course, to achieve, but rather a stabilization of the situation and real defense of the sovereignty of both the republics and Russia itself.

Legislature Hears 'Dollars for Rubles' Findings

PM2602112591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Feb 91 Union Edition p 3

[Irina Demchenko report: "The Legislature Hears the 'Affair of the 140 Billion'"]

[Text] A report from the commission charged with conducting the parliamentary investigation into the circumstances of the foreign economic deal known as the "Affair of the 140 Billion" was heard and discussed 15 February at a closed sitting of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet.

We have learned that the commission considered that, even though it did not materialize, the attempt to sell 140 billion rubles for \$7.7 billion had done tangible political damage to the prestige of the RSFSR Government and Supreme Soviet both within the country and abroad. The representatives of the Russian Government and business circles who took part in drawing up the contract were incompetent and negligent. In the commission's opinion, the approach taken by the RSFSR Council of Ministers itself to the organization of the work in the context of the very severe economic crisis was damaging: Instead of every day painstakingly tackling the mobilization of the republic's internal resources, it channeled its main efforts into seeking out opportunities to buy food and goods abroad. Having completed the commission's report, its chairman, RSFSR People's Deputy A. Pochinok made, in his words, a brief statement proposing that the legislature should not cast doubt on the motives which guided the government members nor on their probity.

Addressing the sitting, I. Silayev, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, also expressed hope that the government would be spared insinuations that its intentions were dishonest and that this would be confirmed by the investigation being conducted by the USSR Prosecutor's Office and KGB organs. He reminded the legislature that he had already informed it that the government could not get by this year without \$5-6 billion, which it currently does not have. "We will continue working, but more attentively," I. Silayev said. He also informed deputies that the government has set up a special currency commission, to conduct expert analyses of all similar contracts, and that nobody—including I. Silayev himself—will henceforth be able to individually decide to conclude a foreign economic deal.

It is well known that I. Silayev's deputy—G. Filshin, whose name appears in documents relating to the "Affair of the 140 Billion"—resigned 12 February. On the eve of the sitting, in conversation with this IZVESTIYA correspondent, G. Filshin said that his decision was connected with the extreme inefficiency of the republic's government rather than with the circumstances of the deal. It was the discrepancy between the level of responsibility and opportunity which prompted me to take this step, rather than any lack of competence or professionalism, he said. However, the deputies' commission noted numerous violations in the actions taken by G. Filshin, who helped to draw up and create the conditions for the implementation of this contract.

The deputies' commission has been instructed to continue its work, and the RSFSR Council of Ministers has been instructed to set its house in order.

Silayev Challenged on Rubles Case

PM2502125791 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 19 Feb 91 First Edition p 4

[Letter signed by I. Burov, former USSR deputy minister of the aviation industry: "I Read With Annoyance—open letter to I.S. Silayev, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Council of Ministers"]

[Text] Esteemed Ivan Stepanovich!

A total of seven years' work in the Ministry of the Aviation Industry and long-standing membership of the same party—the CPSU—give me the grounds and the moral right to express my perplexity to you regarding your interview with the so-called independent newspaper MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI concerning the sensational "Case of the 140 Billion."

I hope you will recall that I have always treated you with respect and rated highly your knowledge, experience, and energy as a production organizer and your ability to quickly find your feet in any situation and take your cue from people's mood. It always seemed to me that when you made any decision you were also prepared to accept responsibility for its consequences, even if the decision was formulated not by you personally but by one of your deputies or other officials subordinate to you.

Entirely different features have appeared in your current public appearances or answers to journalists' questions. I do not mean the change in your attitude to the CPSU, which, especially being a member of its Central Committee, only recently you simply worshiped and with whose step you checked every step of yours. I'm talking about something else: your understanding of your responsibility for what is now happening not in Russia generally (not everything in the republic depends on you), but in the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers, which you head.

I take the liberty of turning to some of the phrases in your interview with MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI observer Lyudmila Telen: "The prosecutor's office has not managed to institute criminal proceedings in the case" (of the 140 billion—I.B.), you say indignantly, "as the press has put an equals sign between Filshin's role in these events and the government's role. A storm of accusations has come down directly on the Russian cabinet."

It is permissible to ask: What sign would you yourself have put in this case? Isn't Filshin the "immediate" deputy chief of the "Russian cabinet," selected for that post by you yourself, and not imposed as hitherto by a bureaucratic edict system? Or is 140 billion rubles such chicken feed to the "Russian cabinet" that it might not be noticed and its origin is of no interest? Finally you will recall that, even after Filshin's incomprehensible explanations at an RSFSR Supreme Soviet sitting, you did not

protest against the chairman's pathetic address to the hall: "Well? Shall we acquit?..." And this occurred before the investigation had been started.

I believe that there were people in the "Russian cabinet" who did not know the circumstances of the "deal of the century," but this could have happened only owing to the interests and endeavors of the "cabinet's" leaders.

As a reader of IZVESTIYA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspapers I was surprised that these publications linked the "case of the 140 billion" only with Filshin's name and not with the RSFSR Council of Ministers; therefore to speak of a mythical storm coming down on your cabinet is to sin against the truth.

And another thing. You have a grudge against the USSR Prosecutor's Office and KGB, which allegedly "are not in contact" with you. "This is at the very least illogical, not to mention the moral aspect of the matter. Specific ethics of relations do exist between leaders of state institutions." These words of yours should also be subject to doubt.

First, if you wanted to you could get to the bottom of what happened faster than the prosecutor's office or KGB, since they are hardly about to hide things from you. Second, the contact of which you speak can be understood in a different way. To permit your influence on the course of the investigation is logical only to those who have remained in the long-rejected positions of the period of stagnation. In conditions of the rule-of-law state which you and I are building together, interference in the course of an investigation "into a criminal matter" is not only illogical but is also simply impermissible, even on the part of the premier of the "Russian cabinet."

Something similar can also be said about your judgments on the "ethics of relations between leaders of state institutions." We are fed up to the back teeth of these "ethics," since we have the opportunity of seeing them every day in the so-called war of sovereignties and laws, in which the cabinet headed by you actively participates.

I will not trouble you further with a critique of your interview. The political scandal about the case of the "140 billion" has already broken out irrespective of my wishes or yours. But it is neither "the press" nor secret "power structures" that are the guilty parties in it, as you specified to the MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI observer, but rather the specific people on whose initiative, with whose blessing, and under whose noses this "deal of the century" shaming the Russian Government was perpetrated.

Respectfully,

I. Burov

Former USSR deputy minister of the aviation industry

Silayev Discusses Farm Cooperatives

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Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Interview with RSFSR Council of Ministers Chairman Ivan Silayev by unidentified correspondent at second congress of the Russian Association of Peasant Farms and Rural cOoperatives; place and date not given; from the "Rural Hour" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Could you have imagined even a year ago that this hall was going to be crammed with delegates representing Russian peasant farmers?

[Silayev] I couldn't have imagined it even two months back, when I was delivering my report on peasant reform. I was confident about these proposals. I was confident they were necessary, that they would be supported, but I did have a certain private worry that it could turn out that the peasants really had lost their ties with the land, that it no longer interested them, did not attract them, and that those who fiercely opposed our policy would come out on top.

[Correspondent] You mean those who said that such peasants did not exist?

[Silayev] Yes, and the fact that the conference hall is full today is, if you like, a staggering thing, demonstrating as it does the mighty force of the land and the human instinct that comes from the land. But I'm not just referring to the principles of human instinct. No. I would also call it a fiat of the times. People of peasant stock, present and former, have put up with quite enough. They have been uprooted from their natural occupation, from the right to be in charge of the land. That means being preoccupied with the land, and worrying a lot about it. I haven't seen such a packed hall for a long time. There are already more than a thousand people. One can sense a feeling of determination. They have met to discuss and to argue, although a certain element of emotion is present here, too. But, that is also justifiable, because, unfortunately, the fact is that the movement is coming up against considerable resistance. I hear at my meetings with individual farmers that they get burglaries, robberies, arson attacks and threats. Nothing is being done about it. That is a form of resistance. So naturally they need very substantial support. But I can see by their appearance, and their firm handshakes, that these are stalwart people with a will of their own, and you won't get one over on them so easily. Moreover, they enjoy the protection of the law, as the saying goes.

[Correspondent] Ivan Stepanovich, judging by your speech, at least, that is the conclusion I reached, you, the chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, totally and utterly support the creation of an independent economic structure, an alternative one with regard to the government. You support the emergence of a very powerful and not very compliant partner for the government.

[Silayev] We are not only not intimidated by it, we are encouraged, because we have come to a dangerous situation where a complete lack of concern, or silence, or suppressed initiative have brought us to ruin and chaos today.

A genuinely democratic ruling body is going to be elected at the congress today. People of the soil, people from the local regions, and obviously farmers will mainly be on the board. There may be lawyers and other people whom they will need. For the most part, the farmers themselves and their local representatives should be in charge of things., I fear that if this body is divorced and distant, it will also become purely administrative, and its members will forget that they were farmers once themselves. What happens in the West is that, though members of the ruling body, they do not distance themselves from the land and continue to farm. Only a working management of some kind, making decisions on the most important administrative issues, will be made up of experts recruited on contract.

[Correspondent] The U.S. President's assistant for agricultural is a farmer, he doesn't have to see his farm.

[Silayev] There you are! I am fully convinced that all this should mainly be done by them, to the arrangements and decisions about whom to support, and whom to call to order if they have come to the land with predatory intentions, I am not intimidated by the fact that there is already criticism from both sides today. We shall give them the resources.

[Correspondent] Ivan Stepanovich, there will inevitably be some sort of ancillary nonstate economic structures to provide services, and perhaps to manufacture agricultural equipment, produce fertilizer, and so on and so forth, along cooperative lines. Thus, a natural moment for cooperative arrangements will arise. Do you support such nonstate economic structures? Take seed growing. They need to be the most diverse and specialized arrangements, not artificially divorced from real requirements.

[Silayev] Although I call myself a peasant, I have not been a peasant for a long time. I merely have a peasant background. It is thus difficult for me to give you a precise account of all the structures. But take the experience of the farmers' movement abroad. when I was in Germany recently, I took a special interest in this. Only certain laboratories, universities and other types of scientific centers which carry forward the progress of science and technology in agriculture are part of the state, or semi-state, structures. For example, they do research on new technological ways and methods of crop growing in extreme conditions. That is indispensable, and that is perhaps as it should be. As regards other structures, I have no doubt that people may say here today, Give us metal, give us tractors, give us everything, everything, everything. Well, in the absence of other market structures, we shall have to get involved in that. But it's only a temporary arrangement. Judging by what happens in

Western countries, the peasant produces, but the marketing, and even the processing, is not his concern. There is an extensive network of cooperatives set up by them.

[Correspondent] That's the most important thing.

[Silayev] Yes, if in a particular region there are a hundred farmers, for the sake of argument, they set up a cooperative which deals on their behalf with all the concerns about what to do with the harvest. I think that is the path we must follow, the setting up of cooperatives. There is nothing to be afraid of in this word. A creative and working cooperative will never become a parasitical force which exploits the consumer. These are the middlemen, if you like, who, on terms advantageous to the consumer, store, process and take the produce to the consumer, and market it there. We shall support this in every way we can, and the less state interference there is in this, the better it will be for the principal consumer, the member of the public.

Moscow To Introduce Food Rationing

PM2502123791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
19 Feb 91 Union Edition p 2

[Interview with Yu. Luzhkov, chairman of Moscow City Soviet Executive Committee, by V. Belikov under the "Events and Comments" rubric—place and date of interview not stated: "Coupon Trade Being Introduced in Moscow"]

[Text] Back last fall the leaders of city organizations warned that the period between March and May of 1991 might turn out to be very complex as regards the supply of food to the inhabitants of Moscow and the oblast. Unfortunately these predictions are coming true: The lack of supplies from other republics and oblasts in the country, and also interruptions in importing food products to the area of the capital have recently become systematic.

Your IZVESTIYA correspondent spoke to Yu. Luzhkov, chairman of the Moscow Gorispolkom [City Soviet Executive Committee], about the measures the gorispolkom has taken:

[Belikov] By all accounts, trading on the presentation of passports and customers' "visiting cards" did not provide the necessary level of protection for Muscovites and the inhabitants of the Moscow area. Is this the case?

[Luzhkov] Yes, it is. Checks carried out recently at stations and on highways in accordance with the well-known USSR presidential decree have shown the inadequacy of the measures that were introduced earlier to protect the interests of the almost 17 million-strong population of the Moscow area. At a sitting of the city crisis committee on 15 February the law enforcement organs reported that in the past three weeks attempts to take millions of rubles' worth of the scarcest food products and consumer goods out of the capital to other areas

in the country—especially the North Caucasus and the Transcaucasus—were stopped.

Can we allow speculative elements to continue plundering the city's commodity resources like that, acting in a calculating and insolent manner under cover of wordy reasoning about "freedom to sell without restriction" and "the individual's right to acquire property"?

At the same sitting the crisis committee examined a protest from the city prosecutor's office about the checks carried out on freight being transported out of Moscow, and decided to retain the strict supervision of transport and of the highways leading out of the capital. The initial resolution should be tightened up, taking into account the observations made. We are counting on the understanding and the necessary support of Muscovites in this question.

I would also like to make clear that no one intends to stop visitors to the capital from taking home goods they have bought in Moscow in reasonable quantities.

[Belikov] Particularly since you will only be able to take very modest presents out of Moscow with the introduction at the beginning of March of food sales against coupons in the capital. What is "coupon trade"?

[Luzhkov] The capital or, to be more precise, the whole Moscow region will be one of the last in the country to introduce coupon trade as an effective measure to protect the population and secure guaranteed supplies of the necessary minimum of food products for the population. We have studied and taken into account the existing experience of the Ukraine and other places. The transfer to this system of trading, *inter alia*, will take place simultaneously in Moscow and the oblast.

It will be implemented using a single standard for inhabitants of the capital and the Moscow region. Goods will be provided without any restrictions in Moscow or at any place in the Moscow area in return for coupons issued in the capital or in the oblast. The difference in coupon colors was introduced only to ensure more accurate registration of the consumption of goods on mutual visits. In the summer, during the dacha season, this will help transfer the necessary proportion of food resources from the capital to the oblast to provide produce for Muscovites on holiday.

The food coupons, which include five groups of basic goods, do not involve compulsory registration at any particular store (in this way they differ from wartime ration cards). Each of the coupons has a note which shows whether you can make a purchase in the first or second half of the month. The food quotas are not indicated. They must be determined each month on the basis of existing food stocks. The common levels for everyone will be made generally known through the press, the radio, and television. Prices for these products will be uniform, state prices. Consumers can find out other details from the new trade laws, which we will publish in the local press and put up in all stores.

[Belikov] How will coupon trade be introduced?

[Luzhkov] At least a week beforehand, the population will be widely informed about it. It has been decided that the monthly coupons will be distributed like the sugar coupons at the place of residence, but on a monthly payment of 20 kopeks. This is necessary to cover the expenses involved in preparing them and to pay the workers in the housing management services, who are faced with taking on new troubles and concerns. In addition to permanent residents, refugees registered in Moscow and the Moscow region will receive exactly the same coupons, as will members of servicemen's families. Citizens under the age of 21 will be issued coupons without the right to obtain wine and spirits.

For workers in stores, the food coupons are documents representing strict accounts. The cashier who stamps the receipt or the sales person who weighs the goods must obtain the appropriate coupon and keep it so that it can be subsequently matched up with the cash receipt. Naturally we demand that the customers make accurate and careful use of the coupons.

[Belikov] What is to be done about passengers on business trips or in transit who are held up in Moscow for a day or two?

[Luzhkov] Departments where you can acquire the necessary minimum of produce without coupons—which, incidentally, are not by any means used to regulate the sale of every type of food product—will be kept open for them. In addition, in the evenings you can buy products with a limited storage period, which are allowed to be put on so-called non-coupon sale so that they can be sold as quickly as possible. Finally, as has already been said, commercial trade in food has been retained in the capital and in the oblast.

Western Republics

Gorbachev Arrives in Belorussian Capital

LD2602084191 Moscow TASS in English 0830 GMT
26 Feb 91

[Text] Minsk February 26 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in the Belorussian capital Minsk today. Today's schedule includes meetings with workers of the Minsk tractor works, republican parliamentarians, scientific and artistic intellectuals.

To Visit Contaminated Areas

LD2602093691 Moscow TASS in English 0906 GMT
26 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Tatyana Khryapina]

[Text] Minsk February 26 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in the capital of Soviet Belorussia today. This is his first visit to the Republic as the head of the Soviet state.

Gorbachev will visit Belorussian areas struck by the Chernobyl disaster. Nearly a fifth part of the republican territory, with a population of over two million people, was contaminated with radiation.

In addition to Minsk with a population of 1.7 million, the president will visit the Gomel and Mogilev regions and meet Belorussian deputies to specify the size of aid from the entire country for the earliest possible implementation of the programme to overcome the disaster's consequences.

Visits Factory; To Address Workers

LD2602111391 Moscow TASS in English 1053 GMT
26 Feb 91

[Text] Minsk February 26 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev, on a visit to the Belorussian capital, toured the Minsk tractor works today.

He began discussions with employees at the republic's biggest industrial facility.

After touring the plant, Gorbachev will address the workers.

Belorussia Adopts Protection for Chernobyl Victims

LD2602101291 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1900 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The Belorussian legislature today adopted a law on the social protection of citizens who suffered as a result of the Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Station accident. It is based on a concept worked out by Belorussian scientists. It differs substantially from the concept worked out by the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Radiation Medicine which was accepted by the USSR Council of Ministers State Commission on Emergency Situations.

The permissible maximum radiation dose must now not exceed 0.10 rems a year. Before this figure was 0.5 rems. The law defines four zones, depending on the density of radioactive pollution, where evacuations will take place. Compensation will be paid for living in the affected areas and social benefits will be distributed.

The decision on putting the law into effect states that the republic will be indemnified for all expenditures connected with implementing the law from Union budget resources. The Belorussian Council of Ministers has been instructed to adopt specific measures necessary for this. The Belorussian legislators' Chernobyl package has several other documents.

Moldova Makes Preparations for Referendum Vote

LD2502145691 Moscow TASS in English 1428 GMT
25 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Feydor Angeliy]

[Text] Kishinev February 25 TASS—Councils of people's deputies in the cities and districts of the Dniester region and areas where Bulgars and Gagauz live in compact communities continue preparations for the March 17 Soviet national referendum despite the Moldavian parliament's decision not to hold it.

Commissions have been set up in these regions to prepare for the referendum and polling stations are functioning ahead of the event, explaining to people the aim and procedure of the forthcoming plebiscite.

The problem of retaining the integrity of the Union has become the focus of political life in local councils and party organisations.

For people inhabiting the Dniester region, Moldavia's south and many other cities and districts the future of the Union is inseparable from a renewed federation and the prompt conclusion of a new Union treaty.

Work collectives and residential neighbourhoods hold meetings, at which it is stressed that the decision of the Moldavian parliament to deprive the population of the republic of the right to voice their opinion on their own future on March 17 can only cause further escalation of social and inter-ethnic tension in the republic.

Ukrainian Trade Union Body To Support Referendum

LD2602000391 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] The Presidium of the Council of Federations of the Independent Ukrainian Trade Unions called on the members of trade unions to express their support for the union of sovereign republics during the referendum on preserving the present USSR. It also expressed its support to the resolution of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet regarding this referendum.

Ukrainian Democratic Party Head Views Referendum

LD2502150391 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Interview with Yuriy Badzyo, Referendum-Sovereign Ukraine member and Ukrainian Democratic Party National Council chairman, by correspondent Sergiy Sobusky at a sitting of the Referendum-Sovereign Ukraine in Kiev; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Badzyo] We are discussing combining the efforts of the Ukrainian democratic forces and preparing for the referendum in an appropriate way. The committee's practical work consists in the first place of drawing up and reaching an agreement about leaflets and appeals on the 17 March referendum. A leaflet has already been published and the main slogan, an appeal to the Ukrainian citizens, is to say no to a renovated federation and yes to a commonwealth of sovereign states. In our explanatory work we want just to make sure that people

take a conscious attitude to this event. The most perfidious idea of this action is that the results of the referendum, according to the USSR Supreme Soviet's resolution, will be valid on all USSR territory, i.e. the people of one republic will decide the future of another republic. This contradicts the constitutional norms on which the USSR is formally based—not the citizens but the republics were the subjects of the 1922 treaty. Therefore, it is the republics that should reach an agreement with each other. The future of a republic should be decided only by the people of this republic, not by those of another republic.

[Sobusky] Less than a month is left until the referendum. What are your forecasts on this referendum, how will people vote?

[Badzyo] Our committee does not have the resources to carry out a sociological opinion poll. Therefore it is difficult to say what the results of the referendum will be. But we have some information and we are fairly optimistic; in Donetsk 34 percent are against the Union treaty and for the sovereignty of the republic. I think that it is a fairly high percentage for this region.

Rukh Protests Attempts To Support Saddam Regime

LD2502151791 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The Ukrainian People's Movement [Rukh] has made an international statement for the first time. It concerns developments in the Persian Gulf. The statement reads in particular, I quote:

As a mass public and political organization Rukh expresses its resolute protest against attempts to support the regime of Saddam Husayn. It goes on to say: Taking into consideration possible changes in the USSR's policy on Iraq's aggressive actions we apply to the Supreme Soviet, the highest government body in the sovereign Ukraine, to confirm the Ukraine's position as a founding state and member of the United Nations, expressed in a statement by Leonid Kravchuk, Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet chairman. We hope that the Supreme Soviet will dissociate itself from dubious attempts to rehabilitate the regime of Saddam Husayn, end of quote.

Rukh Applications on Refusing Military Service

LD2602094591 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Printed application forms which can be used by the conscripts who do not wish to do their Army service outside the Ukrainian borders are being circulated in the secretariat of Ukrainian People's Movement [Rukh]. It suffices just to sign this application form in which it is stated, I quote: Proceeding from my own political convictions I categorically refuse to do my service in the ranks of the Soviet [Russian: sovet'skiy] Armed Forces outside the borders of the Ukraine. I agree to do my

service only on the territory of the Ukraine. In the event of my imprisonment, I want to be considered a political prisoner as I become a victim of the political struggle. End of quote.

So far the secretariat of Rukh does not give information on how many conscripts have signed this application form.

Rukh Seen as Adopting 'Democratic Centralism'

PM2602092591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 22 Feb 91 First Edition p 3

[Correspondent Colonel A. Polyakov report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Rukh Demands Discipline"]

[Text] Kiev, 21 Feb—Yes, those who have frequently provoked disturbances have suddenly started talking about discipline. Rukh members are not demanding labor or legal discipline, nor order in society, but strict executive efficiency... within Rukh itself.

According to Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] People's Deputy N. Porovskiy, quite an unexpected decision was adopted by a majority of votes at a recent enlarged meeting of this movement, attended by approximately 300 representatives of grass-roots organizations, on Rukh's participation in the 17 March referendum—which clearly ran counter to the intentions of the organization's leadership.

It was then that the "democrats" took alarm: What is this—disobedience, a rebellion? We have let you get out of hand! Have we forgotten the teaching of Bandera's followers? Pan N. Porovskiy declared at a news conference that relations between the center of Rukh and its regional organizations would be revised in favor of greater discipline and the binding nature of decisions "from above" on the "lower levels." How much mud they poured onto democratic centralism, while they themselves...

For the time being, despite the fact that ordinary Rukh members have advocated participation in the referendum, hundreds of thousands of leaflets of appropriate purport have been sent, according to N. Porovskiy, to central and eastern oblasts of the Ukraine. So as to use this still available means to "make the apostates listen to reason."

Ukrainian Political Parties Apply for Registration

LD2602100291 Kiev International Service in English
0000 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Excerpts] There are 16 political parties now in Ukraine, of which eight have the word democratic in their name. [passage omitted]

About a dozen of parties have already submitted their documents to the Ministry of Justice to be registered, says Nadiya Lukashova chief consultant of the Department of Public Associations of the ministry.

[Lukashova] [passage omitted] So far we registered only the Peasants' Party. Its full name is the Ukrainian Peasants' Democratic Party. Also registered is the Ukrainian Republican Party. We also got an application from the Liberal Democratic Party. As far as the Communist Party is concerned, it is now preparing its documents for registration, said Nadiya Lukashova.

Conferee Submits Plan for Ukraine's 'Own Army'

LD2602000491 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian
2200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Excerpts] The processes of democratization of Soviet society and the sovereignization of Union republics can not avoid such a conservative structure as the Armed Forces. In certain republics, voices are becoming louder and louder on the need to create local armies independent of the center.

By the way, the Declaration on the State Sovereignty of Ukraine, Chapter 9, says the Ukraine has the right to have its own armed forces. But it is one thing to have a right, and it is another to achieve the goal. There is a considerable distance between these two notions. A conclusion to this effect was drawn by participants of the scientific conference on the "external and internal safety of Ukraine, and the concept of the Ukrainian army and ways to create it. It was convened and conducted in early February by Rukh, parliamentary opposition Narodna Rada, and the Committee for the Revival of Ukraine's Armed Forces.

At the same time, virtually all participants of the conference,—apart from the opposition it was attended by representatives of the parliamentary majority and officers from the headquarters of the Kiev military area—did not think that this goal is unattainable. Certain differences in attitudes were evident in the methods of pace and creating Ukraine's army.

Of seven various drafts and concepts presented to the conference, the draft by retired Col. Anatoliy Koshel drew the greatest support. He submitted a step-by-step plan to create Ukraine's own army. I asked him to enlighten me on the essence of his draft.

[Begin recording] [Koshel] It is rather simple. The creation of our own Ukrainian army should proceed in this way—all officers and conscripts from the Ukraine, regardless of their nationality, should serve here, in the Ukraine. Together, they will start forming the body of our Ukrainian army. Later, we shall approach the second stage, creating a professional army out of volunteers ready to sign contracts for no less than five years. My draft has a provision that our armed forces will be subordinated to the president of the Ukraine and to our republican defense minister. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What about the moods of officers? To what extent do they support this idea, the creation of republican armed forces?

[Koshel] You know, even conservative forces support this idea. Why? The Lithuanian example shows that it is the national army which must defend its own people. It is much simpler to issue orders to Ukrainians or Russians to shoot at Lithuanians than to order Lithuanians to shoot at their own people. I think that if the Ukrainian legislature comes out in favor of this concept, the transition period would take up to a year. By 1992 or 1993, we would have an official Ukrainian army subordinated to the president of the Ukraine. In my view, our army should be equivalent in budgetary strength to no more than 2 percent of the Ukraine's gross national product. I am in favor of an army that is not very large numerically, but well equipped.

[Correspondent] The conference addressed an appeal to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine. It says, among other things, that without its own armed forces the Ukraine will never become a full-fledged state, a subject of international law. [passage omitted]

We appeal to the Supreme Soviet to renew the Ukraine Ministry of Defense and to start creating armed forces of the Ukraine. Second, it is necessary to adopt a decision on the status of USSR troops on Ukraine's territory [passage omitted] [end recording]

Azerbaijani With Bubonic Plague Found in Donetsk

LD2602100491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 26 Feb 91

[From the "Television News Service" program presented by Tatyana Mitkova]

[Text] For the first time since the beginning of the century a case of bubonic plague has been discovered in Donetsk, INTERFAX reports. The patient has been isolated. He is a visitor from Azerbaijan, and doctors say that fortunately there is no danger of the infection spreading.

Caucasus

South Ossetian Violence Reportedly Worsening

'Extremists' Kill 2 Georgians

AU2502135291 Tbilisi Domestic Service in Georgian 0500 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The press center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Georgia reports that throughout the entire night of 24 February Ossetian extremists fired without interruption from the Tskhinvali side at a post of the Georgian Motor Vehicle Inspectorate located at the entrance to the town, at the building housing the militia headquarters, and at units of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs troops (?stationed) there. There were no casualties.

The same night, they [the extremists] carried out a full combat operation not only on former South Ossetian

territory but also in Kareli rayon in the village of [name indistinct] where Ossetians live. Using firearms, they killed two peaceful passengers in a car, Nodar Keresheidze and Gocha Tsvitsvashvili.

In Znauri rayon, near Avnevi, [the militia] found a car from which two persons had been kidnapped [names indistinct]. They discovered bloodstained hats in the car. Measures are being implemented to establish the circumstances of the crime.

The same night, three Georgian private houses were burned down in Tskhinvali and in the village of Tamara-sheni.

Ossetian extremists have also not been inactive during the last few days. On 22 February, it was established yet again that they are receiving a lot of help from Ossetians arriving from different regions. On 22 February, in Kareli rayon, in the village of [name indistinct], two local inhabitants, Azarovi and Keleshavi, kidnapped two housewives and tried to rape them. Residents of the village, who came to their assistance, captured the evildoers and handed them over to the Georgian militia. The latter discovered in their possession a sawed-off shotgun, a homemade knife, and hand grenades. In retaliation, the same day, in Znauri rayon, in the village of [name indistinct], extremists kidnapped five Georgians: [name indistinct], Shota Gogoladze, collective farm workers Merab [name indistinct] and Ushangi Khabezashvili, and a teacher, Manana Maisuradze. They have (?sent a letter) [word indistinct] and have demanded their exchange for Keleshavi and Azarovi. Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs workers, with the help of units of the internal troops, are taking measures in order to secure their release. But no positive results have been achieved as yet.

'Worsened Sharply' on 24 Feb

LD2502193191 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1530 GMT 25 Feb 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A TASS correspondent reporting on the situation in South Ossetia notes that the region was relatively calm on 21-23 February. The opposing sides were probably expecting implementation of the USSR Supreme Soviet resolution of 20 February on the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast. But neither the disarmament of the sides nor the talks began by the set deadlines.

The TASS correspondent was told at the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs' press center that the situation worsened sharply on 24 February. Armed clashes, the taking of hostages by both sides, and other extremist actions resumed. According to preliminary information, in the village of Avnevi in Znaurskiy rayon, four people, including a militia officer, were killed by unknown assailants, and eight Georgians were wounded. Not far

from this village the bodies of two more Georgian men were discovered in a Zhiguli car. An investigation is under way.

A convoy of trucks carrying economic goods driving from Dzhava was stopped in the village of Kurta by the Georgian militia and armed civilians. When examined, several trucks were found to be carrying ammunition, in addition to other goods. As a result about 30 Ossetians were taken hostage. According to information from (Kvantaliani), commandant of the rayon under a state of emergency, the Ossetian side also has captured two groups of hostages, a group of five and a group of 12. Yesterday, unknown gunmen fired three times from automatic weapons at locations of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs' internal troops. There were no casualties.

Civilians, Militiamen Held Hostage

AU2502194591 Tbilisi Domestic Service in Russian
1530 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] As we already know, over the last few days the situation in Samachablo [South Ossetia] has become even more tense. The Ossetian extremists have been carrying out widescale attacks against the Georgian population, posts of the Georgian militia, and even subunits of the USSR Ministry of Interior troops. There have been casualties. From 1500 GMT on 24 February to 0300 GMT on 25 February, all types of weapons fired from the direction of the Tskhinvali cemetery and residential areas on a post of the Georgian (?militia) and the provisional headquarters of the Interior Ministry. One house in Tskhinvali was burned down. On the morning of 24 February, near the village of Avnevi, a large group of extremists attacked militia captain [name indistinct], the worker of the [name indistinct] rayon department of the Tbilisi Interior Ministry, Lieutenant Merab [last name indistinct], first sergeant [name indistinct], and private [name indistinct] who were on their way to the village of (?Mukhabi) in the (?Nauri) rayon. The extremists managed to take the militiamen prisoners. Together with the eight civilians taken hostage, they were driven to the village of Dzhavi. The Ossetian extremists offered one of the hostages, a Tskhinvali resident Georgiy Simunishvili a chance to pay 60 thousand rubles [R] ransom for himself and for his friend who was also a hostage. Released [name indistinct] Georgiy Simunishvili reported the incident to the provisional headquarters of the republican Interior Ministry. The Georgian militiamen and subunits of the Interior Ministry troops were urgently sent to [place name indistinct] and released the citizens and militiamen who had been taken hostage. All of the hostages had been beaten. One of them was admitted to the intensive care ward of the hospital. So far, attempts to locate the five citizens of Georgian nationality taken hostage on 23 February and release them have failed.

As was already stated, on 24 February, Ossetian extremists attacked the village of Avnevi. Six citizens of Georgian nationality were killed and 10 seriously wounded.

On 24 February, in [name indistinct] of the [name indistinct] rayon, Georgian militiamen inspected an motorcade moving toward Ossetia. In one of the cars, they found 300 cartridges, two carbines, and one rifle.

Early last Saturday, a motorcade of five automobiles was dispatched to Tskhinvali with goods intended for the peaceful population living in a zone that has been declared to be in a state of emergency. The action of humanitarian aid had been organized by the Georgian Red Cross Society, which had bought medicines and dressing worth more than R3,000. The republican Ministry of Trade donated foodstuffs worth R15,000. The cars also carried things sent by the Executive Committee of the USSR Red Cross and Red Crescent Association: blankets, bed linens, and disposable syringes.

Despite efforts by several representatives of the foreign press and the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, none of these foodstuffs or other articles so essential for the local population reached the people. Neither the chairman of the so-called oblast executive committee, nor the KGB chief, nor the representative of the oblast health department would assume responsibility for letting the goods into Tskhinvali.

MVD Spokesman Comments

LD2502124991 Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT
25 Feb 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—Bloodshed continues, and hostages are being seized in South Ossetia, a Soviet Interior Ministry [MVD] spokesman told TASS.

On Sunday, the Georgian village of Avnevi was shelled with missiles and from machine-guns. Four people were killed and eight wounded, including policemen. Two more people were shot dead in a Zhiguliy car.

Having learnt about the incident, Soviet Interior Ministry units arrived at the site to prevent the tragedy. They seized two missiles, seven pieces of firearms, grenades and ammunition.

Later in the day, the barracks where Soviet Interior Ministry personnel are placed, were machine-gunned. No casualties have been reported. The attackers managed to slip away.

Russian Legislature Urges Calm

AU2502200491 Tbilisi Domestic Service in Russian
1530 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] We now broadcast a message from the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet to the Georgian Government and the peoples' deputies of South Ossetia. The message says:

The RSFSR Supreme Soviet, in its concern for preserving the profound historical ties between the peoples of Russia and Georgia and their mutual support for one

another, expresses its alarm at the situation which has evolved in South Ossetia. We, the message says, respecting the sovereignty of all people, do not have the right to advise Georgia how its people should build their national home. We are only advocating that at this difficult and dramatic time for the country, each of us singly and all of us together should show the restraint, common sense and wisdom in seeking the way out of a grave situation that are inherent in our peoples. The sovereignty of one nation cannot be used against the national dignity and rights of other nationalities. No matter how complex the multinational problems that have arisen, we have faith that they will be resolved and that the parties involved will hear each other out if those measures which bring grief [words indistinct] the killing of people can be eliminated from the arsenal of dispute.

The RSFSR Supreme Soviet believes that the use of force [words indistinct] South Ossetia and the sharp confrontation between the parties may become irreversible, with all the consequences which that will entail. Things are also worsened by the fact that the conflict is affecting the situation in the north Caucasus, making it extremely complex. Esteemed peoples deputies of Georgia and South Ossetia! We call upon you to take every possible action to halt this fratricidal war. We call upon you to show restraint and goodwill to one another, to sit down at the negotiation table and find together the road which will lead to the shrine of reconciliation and an concerted solution to these acute national problems.

Commentator Views Situation

LD2502151191 *Moscow World Service in English*
1210 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The three-day deadline the USSR Supreme Soviet set to the leaders of the Republic of Georgia to stabilize the situation in South Ossetia and its center, the city of Tskhinvali, has expired. However, Radio Moscow's commentator Vitaliy Gurov says there has been no turn for the better. South Ossetia is experiencing a power supply blockade and news blackout. Reports from the region as a rule are fragmentary and conflicting. Some blame everything on the Ossetians who do not want a settlement of the conflict. Others claim that the region is surrounded by armed Georgian militants. Some newspapers claim that among them there are former criminals released from prison just recently. All these reports are not reliable and require confirmation. However, it is indisputable that fire exchanges have been going on in the city of Tskhinvali and around it. Some residents of the city have been injured. There has been no word from remote Ossetian villages in the mountains. It is unclear how they are getting along without power or food supplies. Water supply in Tskhinvali is irregular, no flour is available to bake bread, the roads leading to the city are blocked by armed pickets. These are the hard facts.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Georgian parliament, Zviayd Gamsakhurdiya, is committed to a hardline

policy towards the Ossetians. He claims that in the current situation the Ossetians must leave Georgia. He claimed that the Ossetians moved to Georgia after Soviet Government was established. Gamsakhurdiya blames the conflict on imperial policies by the Kremlin. A member of the apparatus of the USSR Supreme Soviet, General (Kim Sagolov), retired, an Ossetian, believes that this is not a conflict between the Georgian and Ossetian people but between Georgian nationalists and chauvinists and Ossetian extremists. (Kim Sagolov) says Zviayd Gamsakhurdiya has set to himself a Utopian objective, that of building an independent Georgian state on the principle Georgia for the Georgians. One cannot fight imperial policies by the center with imperial policies towards ethnic minorities, said the Supreme Soviet official.

Are there any ways out? There are at least three. Firstly, there can be a return to the good old neighborly relations between the Georgians and the Ossetians. One Ossetian has said only the one whose spirit is strong knows how to forgive. It remains to be seen who proves stronger. The second option implies an Ossetian exodus from Georgia. Bearing in mind the demographic situation in north Ossetia, another people is faced with the risk of becoming refugees. And lastly, there is a third opportunity—to fight to the bitter end. And this is probably the most horrible way out. Which one will Georgia and Ossetia choose? This will become clear soon.

'Frightening' New Blockade

LD2502153191

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1131 GMT on 25 February carries a four-minute report by correspondent Leonid Lazarevich on the situation in South Ossetia.

Lazarevich says that "today the situation in Tskhinvali has been extremely tense". He reports that a column of 28 vehicles traveling from Vladikavkaz to Tskhinvali with flour, fuel, and medicines was stopped. "They were stopped during the day, although the motor convoy was accompanied by three armored cars and internal troops." The convoy was held until dark "and then it was pillaged." "The drivers were beaten up. Three of them spoke to me. Two are in the hospital. Two are in bed at home and feel very ill. This is frightening. This is frightening because the blockade of South Ossetia is moving into a new stage, a new blockade. The road which leads from Vladikavkaz is called the road of life."

"There now is no flour in Tskhinvali. Things are very bad food-wise in Tskhinvali. You know, there isn't any." Lazarevich was surprised when he heard on Central Television that supposedly there is some food. "The situation in Tskhinvali is insufferable and impossible. Now this road of life is closed." Lazarevich apologizes for becoming agitated. He says there was gunfire all night in Tskhinvali in the Lenin Street area. "Confrontation is becoming more acute." Lazarevich calls for a quick settlement to the conflict by the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Efforts Continue To Restore Ossetia Fuel, Power

PM1902164991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
15 Feb 91 Union Edition p 1

[TASS correspondent report: "The Situation in South Ossetia"]

[Text] The situation in South Ossetia remains extremely tense. According to available information, the Dzhava-Tskhinvali highway has not yet been completely cleared of obstruction. The power blockade of the oblast continues. The use of portable diesel engines supplied by the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry enabled bakeries and the oblast hospital to keep going for a time. But they have stopped operating because it is impossible to deliver fuel.

Vehicles carrying fuel were sent from Vladikavkaz to Dzhava on 13 February, to be escorted on to Tskhinvali by USSR Internal Affairs Ministry internal troops. The fuel is to be used for the purpose of restoring independent electricity supplies to the oblast hospital and bakery in Tskhinvali.

On 12 February TASS transmitted information obtained at the emergency committee under the chairman of the North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet to the effect that electricity supplies to South Ossetia had resumed. Your TASS correspondent obtained contrary information from other sources. What, then, is the true situation?

O. Klepachevskiy, general director of the "Sevkavkazenergo" production association, told your TASS correspondent that on 12 February a team of power installation workers from North Ossetia, operating in difficult mountain conditions, connected some rayons in South Ossetia to the North Caucasus combined power system.

The power workers tried to establish a temporary supply to Tskhinvali as well, but they were forced to stop work because extremists were threatening to blow up the power transmission lines and take the workers hostage.

The North Ossetia power workers' collective today sent a telegram to the Georgian Main Power Industry Administration and to the Transcaucasus combined lead dispatching administration. It says, in part, that "power workers in North Ossetia are angry about the power blockade in South Ossetia, which you instituted as a means of achieving political ends."

In connection with the events in South Ossetia, the all-Union council of the "Elektroprofsoyuz" trade union federation adopted a statement. It says, in part: "Aggressively minded elements, in the guise of free Georgian power workers, have imposed a power blockade on a population of many thousands in South Ossetia in order to satisfy their own political and nationalist ambitions." The trade union federations all-Union council roundly condemned this immoral act.

Your TASS correspondent was informed at the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry press center that on 12 February a helicopter of the Tbilisi civil aviation administration, carrying out an assignment for the Georgian Internal Affairs Ministry, was detained for a "breach of flight regulations." During an inspection of the baggage of 23 passengers of Georgian nationality Soviet- and foreign-made firearms, ammunition, grenades, and 60 kg of explosives were discovered and seized. An investigation is taking place.

Georgia 'Prepared' To Hold Talks With Ossetians

LD2502182491 Moscow TASS in English 1724 GMT
25 Feb 91

[By TASS-SAKINFORM correspondent Eduard Ederidze]

[Text] Tbilisi February 25 TASS—The Georgian parliament's Presidium "is prepared to hold talks with representatives of the Ossetian population in 'Shida Kartli' (as South Ossetia is now being referred to in Georgia) provided effective measures are taken at the same time to put an end to Ossetian 'militants' actions and to ensure full safety in the state-of-emergency zone", says a letter sent by Georgian Parliament President Zviad Gamsakhurdiya, to USSR parliament Chairman Anatoliy Lukyanov in reply to the federal parliament's recent resolution "On the State of Affairs in the South Ossetian Autonomous Region and Measures To Stabilize the Situation in the Region".

In the letter, circulated here today, Gamsakhurdiya argues that the imposition of a state of emergency throughout the territory of South Ossetia, with the involvement of USSR Interior-Ministry troops, as is suggested in the federal parliament resolution, "would bring about an escalation of tension in areas that are totally unaffected by the conflict".

"Only an immediate disarming of all armed groups in the region and, first of all, those in the city of Tskhinvali and Dzhava District, will give an opportunity to hold fruitful talks on a political settlement of the conflict stirred up by Ossetian militants," the letter reads.

Tbilisi Meeting Calls for Soviet Army Withdrawal

AU2502195991 Tbilisi Domestic in Russian
1530 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] A meeting organized by the parties and organizations comprising the Georgian National Congress was held outside the Tbilisi cinema on 25 February. The speeches delivered by Tornika Pitia, Irakli Tariteli, Gorgi Zamturia, Pomratum Batashvili and others mentioned, among other things, the need for an official definition of the status of the Soviet Army units in Georgia and for their immediate withdrawal from the republic. A demand was also made for the release of the recently arrested leaders of the Mkhedrioni organization. Those who addressed the meeting criticized the bloody

actions by the Soviet Army against representatives of the national liberation movements of the Baltic republics, the Ukraine, Belorussia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenia and other republics. After the meeting outside the cinema ended, its participants changed their original intention of marching to (?the headquarters of) [word indistinct]. Some of them marched along the street leading to the Government House.

Georgian Independent CP Elects First Secretary

PM2602092691 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
21 Feb 91 Second Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent G. Lebanidze under the "Official" rubric: "Independent Georgian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] Tbilisi, 20 Feb—Organizational questions were examined at an extraordinary joint plenum of the Independent Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and Central Commission. The plenum accepted the resignation of A. Margiani, first secretary of the Central Committee, and G. Patsatsiya, secretary of the Central Committee, and fulfilled a request to release G. Chechelashvili, second secretary of the Central Committee, from his duties for health reasons.

The plenum elected D. Mikeladze, formerly first secretary of Tbilisi City Party Committee, to the post of first secretary of the independent Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, by secret ballot, in a contested election.

Armenians in Georgia Protest Administrative Law

NC2502164691 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian
1730 GMT 20 Feb 91

["A report by the press center of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation and ARMENPRES from Dzhavakhk" (Armenian-inhabited Georgian region to the north of Armenia)—radio headline]

[Excerpt] A rally was held in [name indistinct] under the leadership of the (?Dzhavakhk Popular Movement) with the participation of more than 5,000 people. The immediate cause of the rally was the laws on local administration [words indistinct] passed by the Georgian Supreme Soviet for the transition period and which the Armenian population considers unacceptable [word indistinct].

The participants in the rally endorsed an appeal addressed to Gamsakhurdia, chairman of the Georgian Supreme Soviet, and to the Supreme Soviet. The appeal expresses the demand of the Armenians of Dzhavakhk. It asks that [words indistinct], that the possibilities be created to use Armenian at the courts and at [word indistinct] and appoint [first part of name indistinct] Gevorgyan as the prefect of Akhalkalakskiy rayon. [passage omitted].

'Armenian Bandits' Attack Shusha-Agdam Bus

NC2502155591 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
1700 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] The Armenian bandits committed a new crime in Stepanakert this morning when they tried to destroy a bus traveling the Shusha-Agdam route. According to an employee of the operations and investigation group of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, an explosive buried along the route went off as the bus approached it. No one was killed, but several people were wounded.

A number of people in the area were arrested for questioning and an investigation into the incident has been opened.

Further Armenian Attacks on Azerbaijanis Reported

NC2502134291 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
0440 GMT 22 Feb 91

[From the republican press review]

[Text] Another two Azerbaijanis were (?attacked) by Armenian bandits on 20 February. Gulizali Musayev, director of [name indistinct] state farm, and Dashdamir Imanov, a driver, were fired on with automatic weapons as they drove to work in a service vehicle near the [name indistinct] town in (?Gunaydin Rayon).

Soviet Army, Navy Day Observed in Azerbaijan

NC2502160291 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
1700 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] On the occasion of Soviet Army and Navy Day on 23 February, President Ayaz Mutaibov visited a military garrison in Baku where he acquainted himself with the service and living conditions of the military personnel stationed there and with the technical equipment and instruments used by the military forces.

During a meeting with the staff of the garrison's headquarters at the military club, President Mutaibov assessed the complex process of restructuring in the Soviet Union and noted that efforts are being made to involve military units in the settlement of political problems with a view to discrediting the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces, however, have supported the state and the people in the past and will continue to do this in the future, he added.

Mutaibov asserted: As is the case of the entire community, changes are being effected in the structure of the Armed Forces. Nevertheless, the Armed Forces have been a school of bravery and military training, and they will maintain this status. No matter what problems exist, all youths must attend this school.

According to Mutaibov, a number of the youths called up for military service must fulfill their duties in the republic and prepare to defend the republic's borders against aggression when necessary. Concluding, Mutaibov thanked the military servicemen for their work in the service of the homeland and wished them success in their duties and private life.